

SEPTEMBER 1980



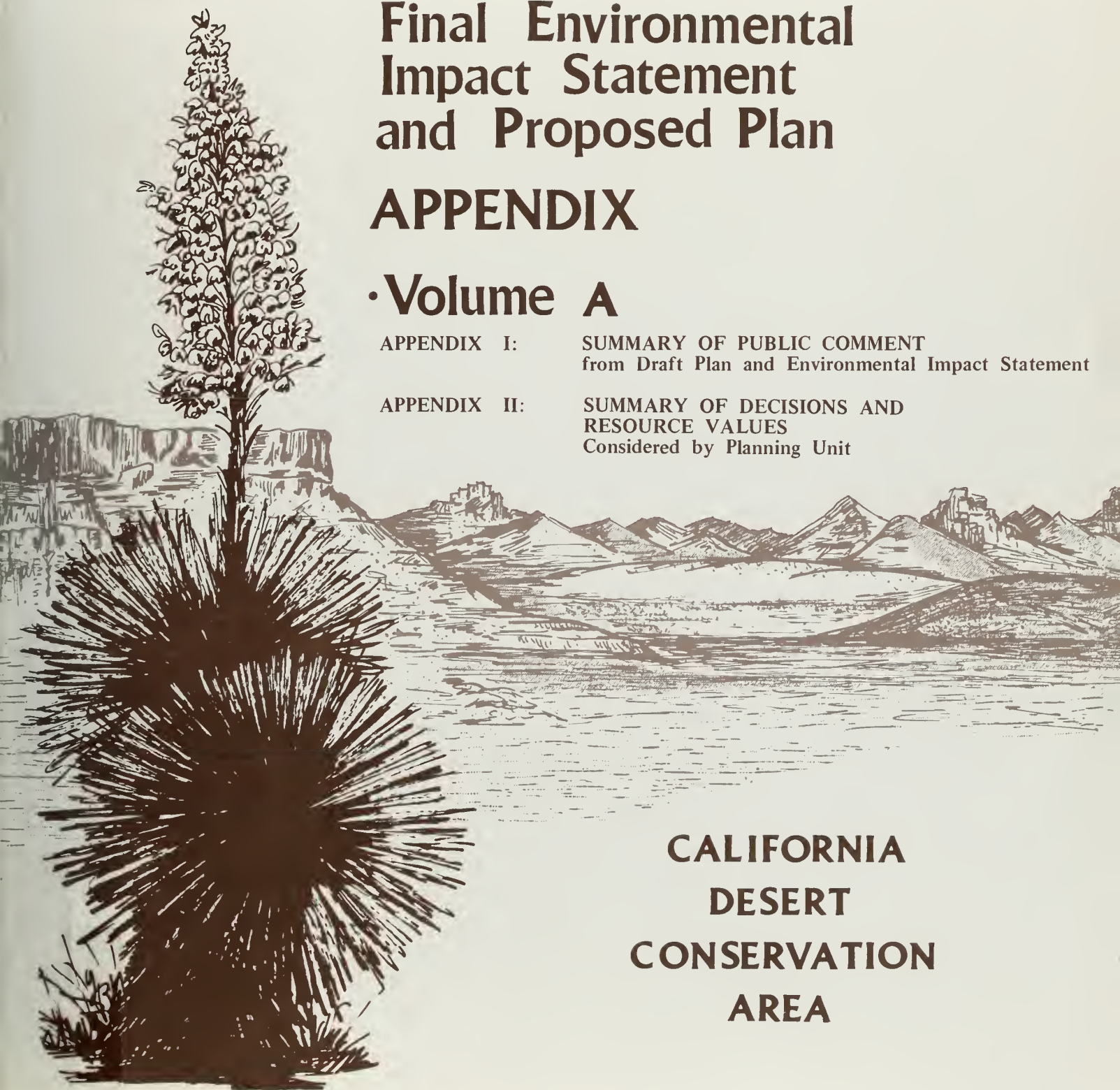
# Final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan

## APPENDIX

### • Volume A

APPENDIX I: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT  
from Draft Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

APPENDIX II: SUMMARY OF DECISIONS AND  
RESOURCE VALUES  
Considered by Planning Unit



CALIFORNIA  
DESERT  
CONSERVATION  
AREA



88065085

BLM Library  
D-553A, Building 50  
Denver Federal Center  
P. O. Box 25047  
Denver, CO 80225-0047

HD  
243  
.C2  
C345  
1980b  
Vol. A

LIBRARY  
1-6000, Building 20  
Research Center  
P. O. Box 25047  
Denver, CO 80225-0047



C4L  
4  
FES  
APP. 4

Table of Contents

VOLUME A

| <u>Book</u> | <u>Title</u>                                                                    | <u>Page</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| I           | Summary of Public Comment From Draft Plan<br>and Environmental Impact Statement | 1           |
| II          | Summary of Decisions and Resource Values<br>Considered by Planning Unit         | 119         |

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
LIBRARY, D-245A  
BLDG. 50, DENVER FEDERAL CENTER  
DENVER, CO 80225



APPENDIX I

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT  
FROM DRAFT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



## Table of Contents

### APPENDIX I

#### SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT FROM DRAFT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

| <u>Part</u> | <u>Title</u>                                      | <u>Page</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1           | Public Review: Objectives and Analysis Process    | 1           |
|             | Audit Report, League of Women Voters - California | 3           |
| 2           | Responses and Comments: Tabulation Methodology    | 6           |
| 3           | Summary of General Comments                       | 8           |
|             | 1. Plan Alternatives                              | 8           |
|             | 2. Multiple-Use Classes                           | 21          |
|             | 3. Cultural Resources                             | 29          |
|             | 4. Recreation                                     | 35          |
|             | 5. Wilderness                                     | 41          |
|             | 6. Motorized Vehicle Access                       | 49          |
|             | 7. Energy and Utility Corridors                   | 57          |
|             | 8. Mineral Exploration and Development            | 63          |
|             | 9. Livestock Grazing                              | 68          |
|             | 10. Wild Horses and Burros                        | 74          |
|             | 11. Wildlife                                      | 77          |
|             | 12. Land Tenure Adjustment                        | 82          |
|             | 13. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern       | 85          |
|             | 14. Implementation                                | 88          |
|             | 15. Vegetation                                    | 92          |
|             | 16. Miscellaneous Comments                        | 96          |
|             | 17. Environmental Impact Statement                | 103         |





APPENDIX I  
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT FROM DRAFT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PART 1

Public Review: Objectives and Analysis Process

SOLICITATION OF COMMENT

Prior to and following the publication of the Draft California Desert Conservation Plan Alternatives and Environmental Impact Statement, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) encouraged public review of the planning process and draft proposals. A variety of outreach activities was conducted; among these:

1. A "Draft Preview" was mailed to 3,600 persons on the Desert Plan mailing list and to an additional 5,000 persons who responded to advertisements about the Preview.
2. A news release and public service announcements were distributed to media announcing the release of the Draft Plan and EIS and the availability of toll-free "hotlines."
3. Advertisements were placed in 26 newspapers telling the interested public how to obtain copies of the Draft Plan and EIS by mail or by calling on the toll-free hotline. By June 15, a total of more than 18,000 copies of the document had been distributed.
4. Twelve public hearings and workshops were held at locations throughout California and within the desert area during the comment period.

Objectives

As a result of these activities and the continuing high public interest in the Plan, more than 8,745 responses were received during the 90-day review period beginning February 15, 1980. BLM's objective in seeking this large volume of comment was to provide decision makers with relevant information needed to make informed and fair decisions about the resource-management issues of the California Desert.

To accomplish this objective, all public response was examined to identify public concerns, supporting arguments, and suggestions for resolution. Preferences and rationales regarding the proposed alternatives, new

alternatives, and modifications of alternatives were noted. Finally, the staff organized and displayed summaries of this comment in such a way as to permit evaluation and comparison with other decision criteria.

### Process

A systematic process was developed to analyze this public input. The League of Women Voters of California conducted an audit of the process to determine if it proceeded systematically and objectively, and whether the results were presented in a form that provided the fullest opportunity for consideration in decision making. A report of League findings was presented to the BLM and to the California Desert Advisory Committee who will also conduct an audit and issue a report on their own evaluation of the process. (A copy of the League's report follows.)

The process was not intended to be a vote-gathering procedure, but rather focused on the qualitative comment from the many segments of the public interested in the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA). Bureau of Land Management staff members identified issues and examined arguments and evidence to construct workable solutions.

In addition, the frequency of a statement, opinion or reason provides a rough measure of the intensity and scope of belief for a particular segment of the public. This quantitative information supplemented the qualitative emphasis of the process to create a description of the content, nature, and extent of public comment. While the source of a comment and its frequency aided in describing opinion, they were not primary factors in the analysis.

Although all comments were subjected to coding and computer processing, original copies of responses of a detailed or technical nature were given to resource specialists and planners. Thus, the staff conducted its analysis using copies of original submissions and also computer printouts of organized and indexed public comment summaries.

The summary of general comments in Part 2 describes the types and sources of responses, and provides samples of specific comments representative of the range and nature of comments received. In the summary, the words "response" and "comment" should be understood as separate terms. A response is any written or oral statement or group of statements received from an individual, organization or governmental body. A comment is a statement of position or expression of value relating to a CDCA land use or resource management issue. A response may contain one or more comments.



Susan F. Rice, President

## FINAL REPORT

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS BLM DESERT PLAN AUDIT PROJECT

On March 11, 1980 the California Desert Plan Program signed a purchase order for the League of Women Voters of California to audit the public input review process for the California Desert Conservation Area Plan.

The audit team was made up of one member from each of the following local Leagues: Palm Springs, Redlands, Riverside and San Bernardino.

"The objective of the audit is to assure the California Desert Advisory Committee, the Bureau of Land Management and the public that public comments received on the draft California Desert Plan had been thoroughly and impartially analyzed and fairly presented in a form that provides the fullest opportunities for consideration in the decision-making process."

The audit was confined to a review of the process that prepared the public input for analysis and included:

- a. Sorting of comment documents,
- b. Assignment of documents for analysis,
- c. Categorization and coding of documents,
- d. Tabulation of documents.

As responses were received, they were dated and numbered by the BLM staff, then sorted according to type, i.e., technical, petition, general letters and official responses from organized groups. Technical responses were assigned to resource specialist planners. The remainder were read and coded by personnel who had been trained to avoid editing or assuming an interpretation of what the respondent meant. The League audit team received similar training.

The audit team chose to examine every tenth response received and checked by staff, using a random sampling technique. Representative samples of the responses in the form of individual letters, postcards, petitions, form letters, official positions and transcriptions of public hearings were examined.

The team is satisfied that representative samples from all types of input were examined including those received at different times during the response period. Errors found in coding varied in importance and did not seem to reflect any bias.

Due to the heavy influx of replies in the last two weeks of the response period and due to the fact that coded responses were not available because of computer problems, the system could not be followed throughout the review period. However, a checking process was continued using random sampling of responses available.

Two public hearings were audited -- one in Palm Springs and one in San Bernardino. Prior publicity was insufficient since participants were not aware of the scheduled workshops. In general, at the hearings, the public was treated with consideration and comments were recorded and given the same treatment as written responses. However, there were delays in the transcription process that added to the frustration of the BLM staff.

In reviewing the transcription of the public hearings attended, it was found that the coding matched the auditors' impressions of the hearings.

A system of entering many comments into the computer word-for-word made categorization difficult at the coding stage. When all the data had been entered, the computer printout was used as a basis for categorizing, sorting and tabulating the comments. At this stage there were many workers and the process could not be audited on a systematic basis. Part of the process was reviewed using computer data for the first 1,000 responses.

The ultimate tabulation was completed as all the comments appeared to be retrieved, sorted and categorized. The high level of understanding of the subject by project planner Dave Mortenson was especially important at this stage.

As stated above, response was heavy near the end of the response period. Considering the complexity and scope of the published draft plan, there was not enough time allowed between the close of the public input and the date when an interim report to the Advisory Committee was due. Computer problems and



breakdowns plus the complicated procedure of identifying issues added to the pressure of the time factor on the BLM staff.

Early in the review period, it was felt that the computer should have been used more efficiently. Many comments could have been categorized at the coding stage, saving time.

There should have been a category established for the position that the desert should be preserved for future generations. Some individual responses from the general public were directed to this thought and although these comments are to be found under various other topics, they do represent a thoughtful point of view which was not sufficiently identified.

The audit team believes that there has been a genuine effort on the part of Dave Mortenson and the BLM staff to work effectively on the evaluation of the public comment on the Draft Desert Plan.

The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people. The League audit team found the project to be challenging, as citizen participation has always been the hallmark of League activities.

League of Women Voters, Audit Team, Desert Plan Project.

Ruth Licata  
LWV, Palm Springs

Dorothy Jefferson  
LWV, Riverside

Jane Darby  
LWV, Redlands

Ruth Petrucci  
LWV, San Bernardino

## Part 2

### Responses and Comments: Tabulation Methodology

#### TABULATION OF RESPONSES

##### Form

Of the total of 8,745 responses received during the Draft review period, 11 percent were workbooks provided with the Draft copies. The remaining responses were letters, postcards, completed forms, organization-generated letters and workbooks, photo essays, map overlays, and referenced articles and speech transcripts. Public testimony at 12 regional and desert-wide meetings constituted the 374 oral responses received.

##### Source

The address of the respondent was coded by zip code and by one of the locations shown in the following table.

| <u>AREA</u>           | <u>NUMBERS RESPONDING</u> | <u>% OF TOTAL</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Desert                | 872                       | 10%               |
| Non-Desert California | 7,542                     | 86%               |
| Other                 | 331                       | 4%                |
| TOTAL                 | 8,745                     | 100%              |

Four types of respondents were identified prior to coding: (1) Government, referring to any public agency; (2) Petition, any response having more than one signature (except spouses); (3) Official, in which the respondent indicates that he/she officially represents a private organization; and (4) Individual, all remaining respondents.

The identification of these respondent types served several purposes. For staff members charged with governmental coordinations, this referencing allowed quick access to this category of comment. The identification of Petition responses allowed a more accurate assessment of the frequency of a particular type of comment. Official letter identification allowed the staff to easily locate the remarks of, for example, parent organizations whose member clubs may have submitted remarks which cross-referenced or supplemented the comments of the parent organization. Total public responses by type were as follows:

|                  |       |       |
|------------------|-------|-------|
| Individual       | 8,503 |       |
| Government       | 71    |       |
| Petition         | 57    |       |
| Official         | 114   |       |
| TOTAL            | 8,745 |       |
| TOTAL SIGNATURES |       | 4,613 |

#### TABULATION OF COMMENTS

From the 8,745 responses received, more than 41,000 comments were tallied and recorded. Because of the complexity of Plan actions and activities, the technical nature of many of the Plan issues, and the large geographical expanse of the CDCA, the staff found it useful to classify each comment into two types:

1. Site-Specific: Comments which referred to geographic areas in the desert. References to place names, specific planning areas, Wilderness Study Areas, motorized vehicle free-play areas, grazing allotments, etc., were coded in one of three ways.

(1) Planning Unit. (See Draft Multiple-Use Class Map in front cover pocket of Draft Plan.)

(2) Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) number (shown also on Multiple-Use Class Map).

(3) Utility corridor number. (See Energy Production and Utility Transmission Element, Draft Plan.)

About 10.5 percent of the comments received were site-specific.

2. Any which were not site-specific or were technical EIS or general comments on the Plan.

## Part 3

### Summary of General Comments

#### INTRODUCTION

Tabulation of responses and comments by type and source were considered necessary referencing tools, but were secondary in importance to the identification of the substantive statement of opinion and information contained in each letter. These comments can be discussed and displayed in a number of formats. In this report, they are arrayed by subjects which parallel the organization of the Plan: Plan Alternatives, Multiple-Use Classes, the Cultural Resource Element, etc.

For each of these subjects or topics, the staff examined each response and selected quotes or summarized narratives which most clearly and succinctly expressed statements of positions and expectations, justifications for a value or opinion, and suggestions for resolving the issue or satisfying the concerns of the commenter. These quotations and summaries were grouped under general statement codes such as "favor No Action Alternative," and "reduce burro numbers." These general comment groupings, under which all specific comments are organized and indexed to source, were the form in which planners and resource specialists examined the summarized public response.

In the following sections, each topic is introduced with a summary of major issues identified under that subject heading. Following this, a number of general comments are presented, each with a number of specific quotations or narrative summaries that describe the range and nature of comments received. Where appropriate, a list of organizations supporting that comment is noted.

#### 1. PLAN ALTERNATIVES

Almost all responses received contained an expression of support or opposition to one or more plan alternatives. The following will describe the general substance of these comments, outlining or briefly mentioning topics covered in greater detail later in this report.

The greatest single type of response received was the completed form prepared by the National Outdoor Coalition (NOC) in advancing a "Use Plus Protection" plan alternative proposal. All but a few hundred of the NOC forms counted supported this proposal and a number of letters from organizations and individuals expressed support for this proposal or aspects of it. An alternative receiving large support was that of the Sierra Club. The National Audubon Society also proposed an alternative plan which received much support. These alternatives propose ideals of management which fall



outside of the "use-to-protection" spectrum of alternatives presented in the February 1980 draft.

Reviewers who indicated preference for a BLM plan alternative most often selected the Protection Alternative or the Use Alternative, the former alternative somewhat more often. Considerably less support was expressed for the Balanced Alternative, and a small number felt that No Action represented the most appropriate response to land use and resource management issues.

Those endorsing the Protection Alternative cited its preservation of wildlife habitat, ecological stability and wilderness values, and curtailment of motorized vehicle cross-country use as its strongest features. Many felt that the goals of maintenance of environmental quality and sustained yield required by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) were satisfied only by this alternative. Several people characterized the Protection Alternative as having the greatest flexibility of those offered, because it excluded the fewest options for the future. Proponents of this alternative urged managers not to sacrifice long-term benefits for short-term gains. Some commenters felt that the three public opinion polls conducted regarding activities in the CDCA (Gallup, Field, and SRI, International) were offered as further justification for selection of the Protection Alternative.

A significant number of letters advocated a strong protection for philosophy management, but found the Protection Alternative inadequate in its general ethical or structural approach, or in one or more of its elements and programs. Some criticized the concept of the multiple-use classes and found its application symptomatic of a perceived "use-biased" management philosophy.

Proponents of a stronger protective stand than that provided in the Protection Alternative felt that management concentration in the Protection Alternative was not on the protection of sensitive resource values and prevention of the decay of environmental quality, but rather on accommodating consumptive uses. For these reviewers, the worst deficiencies of the Protection Alternative were its allowance of the decay of wildlife habitat, as indicated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and its inclusion of "existing roads and ways" and "free-play area" concepts for motorized vehicle access. The Protection Alternative, in the view of these commenters, violates the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and subsequent Council on Environmental Quality guidelines, the mandate of FLPMA to protect the natural environment of the California Desert, the requirement of the Endangered Species Act, and the two Presidential Executive Orders regarding cross-country vehicle use on public lands.

Among improvements suggested: extension of Plan deadline by up to six months; inclusion of all 240 ACECs proposed by resource staff; replacement of the Draft Wild Horse and Burro Element with one that maintains lower herd levels more in balance with environmental processes; the elimination or reduction of grazing to enhance wildlife values; the official designation of all Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) inventoried in the CDCA, especially those that supplement National Monuments in the desert, and the establishment of a

Mojave National Park and "Cahuilla" Wilderness Unit in the Colorado Desert of Riverside County.

Supporters of the Use Alternative said that it most fulfilled FLPMA's direction to manage within a framework of multiple use and sustained yield. Those endorsing this alternative supported controlled usage to protect the land, but wanted assurance that public use and enjoyment of public lands would continue. Many feared that additional restrictions and overregulation of production and development of resources would have severe social and economic consequences. "Mineral and energy resource development, in particular, require access for exploration and equipment transport and widespread availability of land to improve opportunities for a success which is needed badly in the current world economic and political climate." Protection of natural resources is, they argue, desirable, but can be carried to an extreme for trivial purposes. They urge a planning perspective which adequately weighs the loss of a few acres of wildlife habitat against pressing social and economic concerns. Many of the supporters of this alternative were recreationists who used cross-country vehicles in a variety of ways. Family togetherness, escape from urban confinement and regulation, keeping youth diverted from crime, and other social benefits were named as values exceeding the cost of damage caused by motorized vehicles. Moreover, claims of damage by motorized vehicles were often disputed.

Advocating an alternate use-oriented management were the supporters of the National Outdoor Coalition (NOC) Alternative and other reviewers who found the Use Alternative lacking in desired features. BLM has, they argued, overprotected or underprotected many of the particular sites of the desert in their application of multiple-use classes. In a proposal which used the multiple-use class guidelines and definitions, NOC supporters advocated an additional 2 percent of the CDCA for wilderness dedication, a reduction of Class L from 17 percent to 9 percent, and corresponding increases in Class M and I. To alleviate the pressures of motorized vehicles on the desert environment, NOC supporters recommend widespread application of "existing roads and ways" zones (although the geological impediment of the desert would make this access much more limited than the map designation would make it appear) and "free-play areas." This would stop the congestion and overcrowding of vehicles in areas which are now suffering from overuse, these commenters argue. With dispersed use, this damage would not occur, many feel. NOC envisions a government presence which accomplishes its goals and objectives through a force of interpretive specialists and a program of environmental education, rather than through enforcement by armed ranger patrol.

Other components of the NOC proposal: The "protection of mineral exploration/development as required by the State of California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMRA) for areas having potential"; the Use Alternative Grazing Element; the Balanced Alternative Wild Horse and Burro Element; the designation of 22 selected ACECs; the increase to 300 feet of the permitted parking area on either side of roadways; and opposition to new National Parks or supplements to existing parks.

Preference for the Balanced Alternative was indicated by public reviewers who found it a reasonable compromise between conflicting demands. An often-expressed opinion by those approving this alternative was that other alternatives were influenced by extreme demands of special interest groups which did not represent the highest public interest. A more common response than mere approval of the Balanced Alternative was an endorsement of its general goals, and recommended changes to correct perceived deficiencies in its protection of wildlife, commodity development, etc.

Several responses expressed opposition to the concept of long-term, comprehensive planning for the California Desert either through general rejection of the planning effort or through support of the No Action Alternative. For some, the application of existing environmental regulation, such as the environmental analysis process, or SMRA provisions for mineral development activity, were sufficient to assure environmental quality without unduly constricting uses or generating an expensive regulatory bureaucracy whose goals were counter-productive to current national needs. The expense of implementation of other alternatives was particularly noted in supporting the No Action alternative. Opposition to all plan alternatives presented was also expressed by those who supported a long-range comprehensive plan, but who felt that the range of alternatives presented was too narrow to provide adequate option for public consideration, reflecting instead a predetermined direction by management. Several charged that even within this too-narrow range the Draft Environmental Impact Statement failed to provide description and analysis of Plan actions on specific sites of the desert, and that a cost-beneficial analysis of the alternative and an adequate social and economic impact analysis was lacking. A summary of these comments follows.

#### FAVOR PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE

##### Representative Comments

-Wherever man misused the fragile environment of arid areas, he himself disappeared or suffered: for example, the Holy Lands and Egypt and N. Africa. The United States will face their fate if it neglects its arid lands.

-Nature should not have to defend itself for its value. Just by "being," it is the most valuable possession we have. This priceless heritage should be protected for the sake of our future generations.

-Protection Alternative clearly allows by far the greatest scope and flexibility. It involves making the fewest mistakes and provides the greatest range of options for future generations.

-The vast majority of the public, as national, state, and field polls have indicated, supports protection of the California Desert and resources.

-The misuse allowed by other alternatives could lead to the destruction of delicately connected plant and animal wildlife and environment of the desert.



-Active management should be allowed in all multiple-use classes. The emphasis should be on ecological units as defined by natural boundaries, and different levels of use intensity should not be mixed within these units.

-The special interests of groups involved in destructive uses should not be given greater weight than the protection of the land and its natural life for all and for the future.

-Intensive uses such as ORVs and camping etc. should be kept to an absolute minimum, and then allowed only in areas where there will be no significant impact on vegetation, animals, cultural artifacts, and air quality.

#### Organizations Favoring Protection Alternative

American Society of Ichthyologists & Herpetologists  
Animal Protection Institute of America  
Boron Garden Club  
Educational Division of the Los Angeles County Museum  
Desert Trail Association/Death Valley Hikers  
Golden Gate Audubon Society  
Hemet High Conservation Club  
Kern County Fish and Game Protection Association  
Marin Audubon Society  
Sportsmen's Council of Central California  
San Diego County Archaeological Society, Inc.  
Society for California Archaeology  
National Wildlife Federation  
Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep  
Utah Audubon Society  
Wildlife Management Institute (Washington)  
Zero Population Growth (Los Angeles)

#### FAVOR BALANCED ALTERNATIVE

##### Representative Comments

-The Balanced Alternative offers the optimum compromise for all special interest groups -- full protection to the still-pristine areas, some protection to available recreation and commercial value areas.

-Balanced Alternative provides a workable means of management whereby significant cultural values and wilderness resources are protected and at the same time significant and beneficial economic development is fostered.

-I am opposed to the No Action and the Protection and the Use alternatives. I wholeheartedly support the Balanced Alternative. Protection interests block prudent use of CDCA. Congress, environmental and recreation forces oppose No Action. Personal profit motivates Use. The Balanced has something for everyone, past and future.

-Balanced Alternative would seem to come closer to satisfying all factions. The only problem I see with this plan is enforcement.

-Balanced Plan meets the two important goals for the CDCA: It preserves habitats and rare isolated ecosystems with the best land use; and it provides the best management of domesticated, imported and exotic species, giving the most protection of habitat to natural wildlife.

#### Organizations Favoring Balanced Alternative

Point Loma Navy Rockhounds  
San Diego County Council of Gem and Mineral Societies  
Pacific Mineral Society, Inc.  
San Diego Gas & Electric

#### FAVOR USE ALTERNATIVE

##### Representative Comments

-The Use Alternative gives adequate management and protection to sensitive areas while providing the opportunity to develop proper resource management techniques to other resources and areas.

-I prefer the Use Alternative. My family greatly enjoys using the desert for recreation and scenic viewing, as off-road riders. Responsible ORVs have a right to be on public land. We were put on this earth to use it, not just to look at it.

-The Use Alternative seems very fair for off-road users. In most areas of the desert I have been in, motorcycles do very little damage, compared to sheep grazing, mining and utility rights of ways.

-ORV areas are being closed out more and more which doesn't seem fair. The people deserve more land. ORV users contribute millions of dollars to the desert economy every year.

-Please remember, we do not abuse the desert we love. Dawn will find yesterday's fun swept away by the evening breeze.

-The plan most responsive to my needs is the Use Alternative. It provides for continued use of areas that for years have been popular with recreation vehicle users.

#### Organizations Favoring Use Alternative

Arizona State Assoc. of 4-WD Clubs (Tucson)  
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
Jojoba World Trade Association  
The Louisiana Land and Exploration Company  
Northwest Road and Trail Association  
Pathfinder Mines Corporation

Orange County Modified Motorcycle Assoc.  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Mojave Desert Gem and Mineral Society  
The Prospectors Motorcycle Club

#### FAVOR USE ALTERNATIVE WITH MODIFICATIONS

##### Representative Comments

-Although lacking in enough off-road areas, the Use Alternative is the best of the three choices.

-Over-all I would favor a form of the Use Alternative with some changes. The Use Alternative certainly does not provide as much "open use" areas as the protection has "closed."

-Use Alternative is: inconvenient, uneconomical, and requires too much gas and money. The old areas are best. There is too much redistribution; it does not provide quality riding areas. There is a lot of open land much closer in that is much more reasonable.

-This is what I, as an off-roader, would like to see. This would open up a slight bit more than 10 percent of the areas we had open to us in the early 1970s. This plan would allow us to rotate our area a bit more which would have less damage to the desert.

-Having paid for the use of the current areas available through the green stickers, I believe more connected land use should be allowed for public off-road use.

-More campgrounds would discourage people camping in the more ecologically sensitive areas. This would also prevent serious overcrowding in the limited campgrounds, adding to the "wilderness experience" for all.

##### Organizations Favoring Use Alternative With Modifications

California Assoc. of 4-WD Clubs, Inc.  
California Off-Road Vehicle Assoc., Inc.  
Indio Chamber of Commerce  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Outdoor Coalition  
N.R.C. Gem and Mineral Society  
United Four-Wheel Drive Associations  
The Ox Cattle Co., Inc.

#### FAVOR PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE WITH MODIFICATIONS

##### Representative Comments

-I favor protection; however, I think you should consider eliminating all ORV activity in the desert.

-If indeed this is a serious plan to protect the wildlife and desert ecosystem, then nothing short of the Protection Alternative should be adopted, and even this needs many major improvements.

-You fail to deal in adequate ecological units. You use a fragmented urban approach which results in a mishmash of the visible-use concept areas that totally violate ecological boundary requirements.

-I want to see the California Desert restored to pristine state. None of your alternative Draft Plans will accomplish this.

-We recommend that a strengthened version of the Protection Alternative be adopted: strengthened by more wilderness areas; more protection for wildlife, plants, riparian; more restriction on vehicular use; and make "no grazing" a part of the Protection Alternative.

-We much prefer the Protection Desert Plan Alternative as proposed by the Sierra Club. We urge the BLM to adopt this or a similar plan.

#### Organizations Favoring Protection Alternative With Modifications

Archaeological Survey Association of Southern California  
Bay Area Turtle and Tortoise Society  
California Wilderness Coalition  
Desert Fishes Council  
California Turtle & Tortoise Club (Los Angeles)  
City of Fresno Parks & Recreation Department  
Committee for Green Foothills (Palo Alto)  
Desert Bighorn Council  
Earth Watch Club (Pierce College Conservation Club)  
El Dorado Audubon Society  
Friends of the Earth  
The Endangered Species Committee of California  
Friends of Wildlife  
Golden Valley Ecological Society  
Humane Civil Association  
Lake Tahoe Audubon Society  
Mt. Diablo Audubon Society  
Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society  
Natural History Museum, Balboa Park  
Santa Cruz Museum Association  
Public Lands Institute  
Rites of Passage, Inc.  
Riverside Alliance for Survival  
Riverside Audubon Society  
The Wildlife Society  
The Wildlife Society, Arizona Chapter  
Riverside Archaeological Society  
Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc.  
Vermont Natural Resources Council  
Desomount Club



Southern Council of Conservation Clubs  
San Diego Society of Natural History  
Sierra Club (Ventura)  
Southern California Academy of Sciences  
The California Native Plant Society  
The Desert Protective Council  
The Desert Tortoise Council  
The Whittier Audubon Society

#### FAVOR NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

##### Representative Comments

-I favor no action. Each year we go back to the same locations that we used the prior year. The rains, winds, and new plant growth erased our last year's use of these locations. We have done this for the past ten years as proof.

-If I were to choose a plan it would be the No Action Alternative, incorporating in it the ACECs that are found on all the maps. Without drastically increasing in size and budget there is no way to implement any plan other than the No Action.

-Develop an acceptable level of environmental modification for site-specific localities by weighing advantages against possible adverse effects.

##### Organizations Favoring No Action Alternative

Texaco Inc.

#### FAVOR ALTERNATIVE BETWEEN BALANCED AND PROTECTION

##### Representative Comments

-I would rather find an alternative with a protected area somewhere between that provided in the Balanced and Protection alternatives. I don't think the Protection Alternative can be sold; too much potential protest from vehicle racers.

-I could live with the Balanced Alternative with improvements taken from the Protection Alternative.

-More wilderness should be added to the Balanced Alternative to make it truly balanced. Since all confrontations between polarized groups end in compromise, I believe we should have a better balance as far as preserving the desert resources. Wilderness is a onetime choice in desert areas that recover so slowly. If we set aside too much wilderness, it will always be there, but if too little, what happens to our future generations who like untouched desert to enjoy?

-I favor the Protection Alternative, however I feel it goes too far in restricting uses. I would like to see an alternative that is somewhere between Protection and Balanced. I feel, in the future, we may regret not preserving more areas in their natural state.

-Let us protect as much as we can now and reevaluate our needs at 20-year intervals or more often.

-Suggested new alternative: 30% C, 40% L, 20% M, 10% I (fits roughly between Protection and Balanced.)

#### FAVOR ALTERNATIVE BETWEEN BALANCED AND USE

##### Representative Comments

-The Use Alternative combined with the Balanced plan would in my opinion serve the public fairly.

-I believe my interest will be best protected by combining the Use Alternative with the Balanced Alternative. With more open and existing roads and trails areas, I think the impact on the desert would be considerably less over-all.

-As an amateur naturalist and member of the California Native Plant Society, Audubon Society, and Lepidopterists Society, I . . . . favor the "Use plan" possibly somewhat slanted to the "balanced plan."

##### Organizations Favoring Alternative Between Balanced and Use

American Motorcycle Association  
Phillips Uranium Corporation  
The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies Inc.

#### AGAINST PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE

##### Representative Comments

-Protection Alternative is in direct violation of the Federal Mining & Minerals Policy Act of 1970; both Class C & L in the alternative will effectively eliminate mining in 92% of the CDCA.

-The Protection Alternative would be a tremendous resource loss. It would limit cattle grazing and the establishment of power plants and corridors. It would only allow about 1% of the area for off-road activity.

-We find the Protection plan an offensive denial of the recreation needs of a major segment of the public, and even the so-called Balanced plan is inadequate and excessively restricting.

-Protection Alternative: The open areas allowed are entirely too small in size and quality and will lead to overcrowding and cause excess overuse. If

more land was opened up, this would result in less use, less damage, more safety. The areas we now possess are large enough that the schedule of events are rotated from site to site.

-Please don't be swayed by the powerful, wealthy, organized efforts of organizations of environmentalists and Sierra Clubbers who can organize and hire loud voices and persuasive ad campaigns.

#### Organizations Against Protection Alternative

American Motorcycle Association  
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies

#### AGAINST BALANCED ALTERNATIVE

##### Representative Comments

-It (the Balanced Alternative) is weighted toward non-wilderness with only just over 30% of WSA acreage being considered for wilderness designation.

-You already know that the present overcrowding of existing open areas is not acceptable. This problem will be increased if the Balanced Alternative is implemented.

-Would lead to serious inroads on a number of desert organisms and wildlife habitat; many cultural resources will also be destroyed.

-Not balanced. Not logical nor scientific. Nor is there an explanation of how "balance" decisions were made. Violates Congressional mandate and wishes of the American people.

-Your Balanced Alternative is a joke. You have limited ORVs in most of the dune area to roads and ways. Who are you trying to kid? There are no roads out there according to BLM's definition.

-The Balanced Alternative is heavily weighted in the favor of narrow interest groups, ORV organizations, and mining companies. The desert belongs to all the people -- not just a select few.

#### Organizations Against Balanced Alternative

Friends of the Earth  
Sierra Club

#### AGAINST USE ALTERNATIVE

##### Representative Comments

-Implementation of the No Action alternative or the Use Alternative would have disastrous consequences and would only increase the degradation of the natural desert environment. The desert tortoise is a prime example of how

ORVs and poorly managed livestock grazing have successfully reduced the number of some native desert species.

-If No Action or Use alternatives were what the people of this country wanted, then Congress would not have passed the FLPMA.

-Use Alternative is inconvenient and uneconomical, too much gas and money, old areas best. Too much redistribution does not provide quality riding areas. There has been a passing over of traditional racing areas which are more desirable for our needs.

-Under the Use plan ORVs would be given too free a reign, resulting in ecological deterioration. Then the California Desert would be of no value to man or wild plants and animals and its dust would choke us all.

-If an area has not received intensive use in the past, then keep it that way, and protect it from future development or motorized use.

-The Use Alternative is not responsive to the FLPMA and should be eliminated.

#### Organizations Against Use Alternative

Animal Protection Institute of America  
Friends of the Earth  
Sierra Club

#### AGAINST BALANCED AND USE ALTERNATIVES

##### Representative Comments

-I don't believe your Use or Balanced alternatives give enough attention to the imperative given to you by Congress. I wonder if it might not have been better if you had been allowed to produce just a single proposal. The objective of Congress being "maintenance of environmental quality," I believe the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern are deserving of more study and public review. The proposals meet theoretical conceptions in the title of the alternative rather than what is best for the desert itself and the American people.

-The Use Alternative seems extremist. The so-called Balanced Alternative seems badly out of balance in the consumptive use direction. The maintenance of environmental quality mandate of the law is not served well by either alternative. It seems as if the authors of the draft were using semantics in a propagandist way.

-Oppose the Balanced and Use plans. Plans are too heavily oriented toward consumption. They do not adequately maintain the desert environment and are not responsive to public preferences which have been expressed in public surveys.



-Consider the fragility of the desert and realize that every encroachment into a threatened plant or animal's territory, every failure to protect an archaeological site, every failure to protect an area from ORVs, may have permanent consequences.

#### AGAINST BALANCED AND PROTECTION ALTERNATIVES

##### Representative Comments

-The B & P alternatives will restrict the public from using large areas of their desert lands because of damage which these lands might in the future incur. The government will further restrict the public it is supposed to serve based not on their desires but on problems which at present don't exist . . . . this is an example of government overregulation.

-The Balanced and Protection alternatives are shaped too much to please small minority special interest groups. . . .

#### AGAINST ALL ALTERNATIVES

##### Representative Comments

-I would like to go on record opposing all three of your alternatives for the CDCA. You are making a mockery of the multiple-use concept.

-Your Desert Plan as it now stands is woefully inadequate. Its four alternatives may meet the requirements of the BLM organization act but do little to effectively preserve the great beauty and unique plant and wildlife and archaeological sites and wilderness areas.

-You have stacked the deck against wilderness designation and natural resource protection in the Plan alternatives. You fail to deal in adequate ecological units. You use a fragmented urban approach which results in a mishmash of the more-visible-use concept with areas that totally violate ecological boundary requirements.

-It is disturbing that all the plans call for the destruction of so many wild horses and burros. Some other alternatives to wholesale slaughter should have been at least considered.

-A major flaw of the Desert Plan is the consistent failure to provide a full range of alternatives. Those presented in the Draft Plan leave very little choice.



## Organizations Against all Alternatives

Davis Audubon Society  
Friends of the Earth  
Kern County Fish and Game Protection Association  
Lake Tahoe Audubon Society  
The Nature Conservancy, National Office, Arlington Va.  
N.R.C. Gem and Mineral Society  
The Phantom Duck of the Desert  
Sea and Sage Branch of National Audubon Society  
Sportsmen's Council of Southern California  
University of California, Santa Cruz, Campus Community Group  
Wild Horse Organized Assistance, Inc.  
Sierra Club  
The Desert Protective Council  
The Wilderness Society  
United Mobile Sportsfishermen, Inc.  
Valley Observed Trails Enthusiasts Motorcycle Club

## 2. MULTIPLE-USE CLASSES

Comments on this subject range from general discussion of the multiple-use concept to suggestions for change in the language and emphasis of individual classes.

The multiple-use class concept was praised by many commenters for its facility in displaying and communicating management proposals, but some felt that multiple-use class titles misled the public about their intent. Conversely, the concept was attacked as an urban planning tool inappropriate for natural resource management. Some perceived its "use-bias" as reflected in boundaries which appeared to be man-made features, such as roads, powerlines, etc., rather than more appropriate ecosystem boundaries. These commenters felt that accommodation of desert uses was given more emphasis than management and protection of natural and cultural resource values.

Others felt the multiple-use class guidelines revealed a preservationist bias which would constrict public freedom and the exercise of the multiple-use concept which is mandated by Congress. The application of multiple-use restrictions to certain mineral exploration and development activities was considered to be of doubtful legality in the view of some commenters.

Several commenters focused on the virtues or faults of a particular class; some recommended the elimination of certain classes. Generally, those favoring protection-oriented management advocated widespread Class C and I designation; those favoring use-oriented management, Class M and I designation. Comments on Class C recommended both tightening and loosening of its restrictive features. Some were concerned that provisions for control of wild horses and burros, livestock grazing; and motorized vehicle use would allow degradation of natural values in Class C areas. Others recommended a variety of approaches to allow for mineral exploration and development with tightly controlled environmental standards. Several commenters questioned

how interim wilderness management would affect particular uses. Class I also received much review. Some commenters suggested expansion of those areas dedicated to motorized vehicle free-play use in order to prevent overconcentration of use in these areas. Others felt that the two Executive Orders which place limits on motorized vehicle use on public lands made the establishment of Class I illegal.

#### MULTIPLE-USE CLASS GUIDELINES/CONCEPTS--FAVORABLE GENERAL COMMENTS

##### Representative Comments

-Guidelines and conflict criteria are generally quite acceptable. I approve of the premises used to establish them.

-The multiple-use class guidelines are very good in describing what can and can't be done; they are very informative and understandable at class levels.

-I . . . think you have done a marvelous job of showing that Controlled Use, Limited Use, Moderate Use, and Intensive Use can go hand in hand . . . with the Environmental Concern allowing us and the desert life to live and play side by side in harmony.

-We want to see these vast lands left open to the multiple use and enjoyment of the rich resources that lie in this area. We want our resources left open.

-Management should remain with the concepts in the Draft.

##### Organizations Making Favorable Multiple-Use Class General Comments

Arizona State Assoc. of 4-WD Clubs (Tucson)  
Palo Verde Valley Rod & Gun Club  
Animal Protection Institute of America

#### MULTIPLE-USE CLASS GUIDELINES/CONCEPTS--CRITICAL GENERAL COMMENTS

##### Representative Comments

-The BLM's massive zoning of the desert is backward and reflects no awareness or understanding of the desert as an ecosystem.

-The proposed urban-style patchwork for land use is incapable of maintaining the more protective multiple-use class designation along a common border with a more use-oriented one.

-We must use the desert resources for these problems but also preserve it for future generations. These lands must not be permanently shelved or destroyed through use.

-The land use plan for the California Desert Conservation Area needs to establish effective buffer zones between areas of ORV and other uses which tend to destroy habitat.

-The guidelines are far too liberal.

-The guidelines refer to various levels of mitigation -- these terms can't go undefined--suitable, significant, etc.

-Rename the multiple-use classes. They should be multiple-use intensity classes: very low, low, medium, and high.

-The desert should be looked at by habitats or natural boundaries -- and not by some artificial zoning.

-We strongly suggest that re-evaluation of land-use classification be made to reflect the extents and ranges of natural resources, distinct habitats such as riparian areas, and range of sensitive animal species.

#### Organizations Making Critical Multiple-Use Class General Comments

American Motorcycle Association  
The Louisiana Land and Exploration Company  
Sea and Sage Branch of the National Audubon Society  
Rockhound Field Trippers  
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society  
The California Native Plant Society

#### MULTIPLE-USE CLASS C--GUIDELINES COMMENTS

##### Representative Comments

-I favor a management plan for our California Desert along the lines of the Controlled Use Class C. The desert habitat and wildlife/flora are too fragile and too valuable of a resource to risk losing.

-Class C -- Controlled -- is the only answer to our problems currently and in the future.

-Controlled use seems to be the only viable alternative for land use.

-Energy fuels are becoming scarce. It seems selfish and foolish for people to waste such fuels for ORVs. Also, the environmental hazard of plowing up desert lands is intolerable.

-Give explicit assurance that all Class C areas will be managed so as to protect them.

-Hunting should not be allowed in Class C.

-Protect Class C areas from overgrazing by wild horses and burros and livestock and from off-road driving.

#### Organizations Making Multiple-Use Class C Guidelines Comments

American Motorcycle Association  
Archaeological Survey Association of Southern California  
California Wilderness Coalition  
Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk  
San Diego County Archaeological Society, Inc.

#### MULTIPLE USE CLASS L--GUIDELINES COMMENTS

##### Representative Comments

-I support Multiple-Use Class L. I don't believe we need to isolate the desert from man's use. We may one day need its resources and be able to use them in ongoing nondestructive ways we cannot today imagine.

-Class L is too restrictive. Too much land withdrawn from mineral entry and agriculture. Land should continue to be used for livestock production. Land should be disposed for economic community development and energy development.

-Oppose seven-year designation of roads and ways in Class L.

-In general I find the outlined uses in the Multiple-Use Class L (Limited) to best fit my idea of the CDCA future.

-I support Class L. The future of the country will require development of minerals and other natural resources and we must allow for such development. Controlled use has too great a restriction on travel, preserving it only for those who can travel without a vehicle. Intensive use permits too much travel with concomitant destruction.

-Recommend Class L be enforced for recreation purposes, motorized vehicles, utilities, transmission, mineral exploration and development, visual resources, livestock grazing, and cultural resources.

#### Organizations Making Multiple-Use Class L Guidelines Comments

American Motorcycle Association  
Archaeological Survey Association of Southern California  
Bay Area Turtle & Tortoise Society  
California Wilderness Coalition  
Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk  
Friends of the Earth  
The Phantom Duck of the Desert  
Rites of Passage  
Sportsmen's Council of Central California  
Riverside Alliance for Survival



The Wildlife Society, Arizona Chapter  
San Diego County Archaeological Society, Inc.  
The California Native Plant Society  
The Wildlife Society  
Utah Audubon Society  
Riverside Archaeological Society

#### MULTIPLE-USE CLASS M--GUIDELINES COMMENTS

-Class M or the moderate-use class is the best. It provides for a wide variety of activities.

-The California Draft Desert Plan and EIS should contain specific provisions allowing commercial growing of the Jojoba plant in Classes M & I. To do otherwise would unreasonably restrict economic development of the desert area.

-Moderate use (Class M) would best meet the needs of the general population.

-. . . . Your moderate and intensive multiple-use areas are too damaging to be allowed.

#### Organizations Making Multiple-Use Class M Guideline Comments

American Motorcycle Association  
Archaeological Survey Association of Southern California  
Desert Trail Association/Death Valley Hikers  
Friends of the Earth

#### MULTIPLE-USE CLASS I--GUIDELINES COMMENTS

##### Representative Comments

-Class I is the only truly fair concept for all.

-Class I guidelines are the ones which make the most desirable use of the desert for me and my family. We need the desert to stay open for use for all with some reasonable restrictions. The desert protects itself by its rough terrain from vehicle use . . . . in winter by rain and winds . . . in the summer by heat . . . spring is the only time the desert can be intensively used by off-road people.

-It is hard to have a Class that is oriented toward complete human use. There is more than just human consideration involved in a holistic plan.

-Class I should be considered as the general plan because of the needs of the biggest percentage of people. When you control people into small areas you tend to overuse the area which in turn you'll close due to damage.

-Areas of present intensive use should be managed along NFS lines -- the best use of the lands. The fragility and long-term vulnerability to unwise use of



desert lands mitigate toward even more stringent controls than in forested environments.

-I oppose the entire intensive multiple-use class as being irresponsible and contrary to the Presidential executive order aimed at reducing ORV impacts.

-I feel that the intensive-use class is totally unnecessary. It legitimizes open areas proposed under the different alternatives, allowing environmental damage to occur and increase by ORV use.

#### Organizations Making Multiple-Use Class I Guidelines Comments

American Motorcycle Association  
Archaeological Survey Association of Southern California  
Friends of the Earth  
Natural History Museum  
Sierra Club  
San Diego Society of Natural History

#### MULTIPLE-USE GUIDELINES--OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ACCESS COMMENTS

##### Representative Comments

-In Class L, leave out "no competitive events allowed."

-I'd like to see more use-organized competition.

-It would seem that noncompetitive touring on existing roads and trails would also be allowed in Class M.

-For motorized vehicle use I like the idea of having restricted areas even for intensive use . . . . moderate use and intensive recreation areas should include modified areas for the handicapped.

"Motorized Vehicle-Designated Roads & Ways" must be properly signed and other roads and ways effectively blocked off and appropriately signed.

-If only a few trails are to be designated for organized motorized vehicle events, then these designated trails would eventually be overused and eroded and a significant hazard to all users.

-Add more competitive point-to-point desert events.

-Suggest that in Multiple-Use Class I organized motorized vehicle use events be allowed in "open areas" and existing roads and ways.

## MULTIPLE-USE GUIDELINES--WILDERNESS COMMENTS

### Representative Comments

-I believe all primitive and wilderness areas should be free from any private ownership or lease and should never be used for recreational purposes or for mineral exploration except for dire national emergency.

-The existence of "man" in habitats is not always totally destructive. To place such large areas in "C", as shown on Protection Alternative Map, would minimize care and attention by "man" to predator and pest control, etc.

-To begin with, I am against any future wilderness areas. I believe the citizens are overregulated. All Class C areas should be changed to Class I.

-Designate all virgin wilderness and desert areas capable of sustaining their own life-system as total, inviolable, free wilderness to be maintained in perpetuity.

## MULTIPLE-USE GUIDELINES--RESOURCE PROTECTION

### Representative Comments

-Areas of wildlife and vegetation should be preserved.

-Man should not be so narrow in his choice of what he wants to see on the face of this earth. Too often he wants only animals which he can consume -- trout, deer, etc.

-Predator and pest control in Class I should be identical to that in Class C except that the exotics portions of the last paragraph should be deleted.

-Boundaries of multiple-use classes should be based on resource sensitivity and limits of specific areas; for example, areas with sensitive soils should not be contained in a multiple-use class which permits transmission corridors.

## MULTIPLE-USE GUIDELINES--WILD HORSES AND BURROS

### Representative Comments

-There is a bias here toward wild horses and burros.

-Consider to what extent these two species have helped man in the past. Is it fitting that we now eliminate them from their rightful home because we now have machines to do the hard work they once did?

-Wild horses and burros are introduced species . . . more control should be placed on such animals, not less. These animals and plants compete with native vegetation and animals and are potential pests.

-Guidelines should allow for more corrals and facilities to capture these animals.

-Recommend that . . you eliminate livestock in these fragile desert areas and allow the wild horses and burros to establish a natural balance with the desert and regard them as part of the natural desert community.

#### MULTIPLE-USE GUIDELINES--CULTURAL RESOURCES

##### Representative Comments

-Sites encountered in Class I or M must be salvaged or preserved in realistic compounds. Since we all know how the El Cajon Motorcycle Club erased the intaglio out in the Yuha desert in 1972 . . . .

-. . . All the comments should include reference to paleontological resources and values. The vertebrate-invertebrate fossil resource is every bit as real and endangered as any other resource or element in nature.

-No significant resource sites should be located in Class M areas. Destruction of archaeological sites and other cultural resources is expected in Class M areas.

-No known Native American value area or cultural resource area should have less than Class L protection.

-The archaeological historical preservation areas should be inspected every 2 - 5 years instead of at least every 10 years.

-It is possible that all unexplored desert badlands are potential sources for fossil retrieval.

-Expand the areas of "Cultural Resources-Native American Values" to overlap and protect critical areas whatever the "multiple-use classification."

#### MULTIPLE-USE GUIDELINES--MINING

##### Representative Comments

-Class C will tend to preclude any new mineral discovery.

-I believe the requirement to submit a plan for any surface disturbing prospecting or exploration is too restrictive and all inclusive.

-Although I am in favor of regulating local mineral mining operations, it is useless to try and regulate these operations under an archaic law from the post gold-rush days.

-Continued underground mining could be allowed, but no surface or open-pit mines should ever be allowed.

-Regulations should require that mineral, oil, and gas exploration be accomplished by aerial surveys, use of existing roads, and other methods which minimize surface disturbance.

-New regulations such as the proposed 43 CFR 3890 should be implemented.

#### MULTIPLE-USE GUIDELINES -- GRAZING

##### Representative Comments

-Grazing -- there seems to be an inconsistency in allowing water developments for wildlife but no watering troughs for cattle. The burros and horses are wreaking havoc.

-Class C. This must be a mistake! How can you preserve wilderness qualities if you allow grazing? It's impossible.

-Water developments could be constructed of wood and/or at ground level to be inconspicuous.

#### MULTIPLE-USE GUIDELINES--UTILITY CORRIDORS AND ENERGY

##### Representative Comments

-You give inordinate consideration to energy corporation "wishes."

-Under visual resources the Class I guideline may need to also cover Class M to accommodate energy production and utility corridors.

#### MULTIPLE-USE GUIDELINES--WASTE DISPOSAL

##### Representative Comments

-The item under waste disposal should be modified to allow waste disposal as part of the mining plan.

-I am opposed to hazardous waste disposal on public lands or to the transfer of ownership of BLM lands for this purpose. In particular, I am opposed to radioactive waste disposal now or in the future w/the present state of the technology.

### 3. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Comments on the Cultural Resources/Native American Values Element were not numerous, but were often quite detailed.

A common concern was public access to cultural resource sites. Several commenters advocated an active interpretive program and development of access to certain historical and archaeological sites. In the view of some, hiding these sites from public knowledge merely to protect them made these artifacts useless. Fines and other penalties for vandalism were preferred to closure



of sites. Others felt that unwarranted destruction of sites had resulted from BLM's past practices of carelessly revealing site locations; that only a few selected sites should be widely publicized and then used to educate the public to consider these resources.

Other subjects of comment included: the adequacy of existing Federal policy and law in protecting these resources; how well the cultural resource values should be identified and defined in the element; the adequacy of the data base in extrapolating site potential; and the extent to which Native American cultural and religious concerns should influence other CDCA activities.

#### FAVOR PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE, CULTURAL RESOURCES/NATIVE AMERICAN VALUES

##### Representative Comments

-Support protection of the cultural resources of Native American Element. By better appreciating the desert Indian cultures we may ourselves learn how to live in greater harmony with the desert and learn greater respect for all the plants and animals of this region.

-Favor Protection Alternative because it would give "high or moderate" protection to 97% of the known cultural and Native American values in the CDCA. Once these historic and cultural sites are gone, replacement is not possible. Too many sites have at this time disappeared due to vandalism and souvenir hunters. The sooner a stop is put to this, the better.

-Any cultural resources that are known to exist in sensitive areas throughout the desert should receive the highest possible protection available through land use management guidelines.

-These historical and archaeological remains are deserving of respect and protection. They are our heritage. We make ourselves poor by abusing them for monetary gains that'll essentially be wasted.

-I believe we must give the highest possible level of protection to cultural and Native American resources, even if it means sacrificing resource use and going without.

##### Organizations Favoring Protection Alternative, Cultural Resources /Native American Values

Educational Division of the Los Angeles County Museum  
Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk  
Animal Protection Institute of America  
Desert Fishes Council  
The Whittier Audubon Society  
Zero Population Growth (Los Angeles)



FAVOR PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE, CULTURAL RESOURCES/NATIVE AMERICAN VALUES, WITH MODIFICATIONS

Representative Comments

-I would like to see more of the cultural resource areas under greater protection than is now being proposed.

-The Protection Alternative within Class I is the preferred approach.

-BLM should have more Areas of Critical Environmental Concern to protect archaeological sites which are being destroyed.

FAVOR BALANCED ALTERNATIVE, CULTURAL RESOURCES/NATIVE AMERICAN VALUES

Representative Comments

-The Balanced plan is best as it will protect the better sites without too much restriction.

-These resources should be considered case by case so as to make the right decision for each case.

-Element should contain more positive commitment on the protection, salvage, and mitigation of fossils.

Organizations Favoring Balanced Alternative, Cultural Resources  
Native American Values

American Motorcycle Association

FAVOR USE ALTERNATIVE, CULTURAL RESOURCES/NATIVE AMERICAN VALUES

Representative Comments

-If the Bureau is going to come up with another preferred alternative we would suggest they use the Use Alternative as a basis for developing a preferred alternative.

-Let people wander as they can and see what is there; you can't enjoy something with a fence and keep-out signs on it. We want to use and see the desert, not destroy it.

-Cultural resources and Native American values of great importance should be protected when their protection does not preclude the use of the area for grazing, agriculture, and other important activities.

-BLM should not worry about the Use plan destroying Native American values. They are too sparse.

-The only two sites needing an adoption of the Use plan to protect them would be Sites 47 and 48 since the rest are covered by Classes L and M.

Organizations Favoring Use Alternative, Cultural Resources  
Native American Values

Northwest Road & Trail Association  
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies

FAVOR PROTECTION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES/NATIVE AMERICAN VALUES  
WHILE PROVIDING ACCESS TO PUBLIC

Representative Comments

-Protect immediate sites only. Design their use so they may be protected, seen, and enjoyed. Unless the cultural resources are made available to tourists, concern for these elements will be nonexistent among even conservationists.

-Sites should be protected as much as possible, but should be open for public viewing. The collecting of small articles, arrowheads, and small pieces of pottery should be allowed on other than established sites. I appreciate the need to preserve some historic or cultural sites of meaningful value; however if there are no artifacts relating to a significant historical occurrence, then there is nothing to preserve.

-Guided and controlled forays into the interior of BLM lands could become a recreational and financial bonanza for increasing staff and services without depleting the area's resources.

-We favor common sense restrictions and not closure of public lands. Most of the world would never see the cultural resources and values that should be opened to everyone.

-Let's increase enforcement and penalties, not closings.

-Your Indian census taker must not be able to add. There could never have been that many Indians . . . (when) no other values are mentioned . . . suspected burial sites are . . . (no) reason for closing the area. If we were to protect all areas of California where cultural resources and Native American values occur we should all have to move out, for surely all areas now populated were previously used by earlier inhabitants.

-The looters and vandals who destroy historical sites, petroglyphs, etc. will not be deterred by any plan adopted . . . law-abiding sportsmen should not be penalized for actions of a few.

## FAVOR NATIVE AMERICANS' RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO SACRED AND TRADITIONAL USE AREAS

### Representative Comments

-Letting the general public with no heritage and ancestral knowledge decide on matters of such religious value to Native Americans was not a wise decision.

-There has been at best a pretended concern for the Native American view.

-Native American people are very concerned that there is a difference between archaeological/scientific type values and Native American values.

-36 CFR 800 doesn't adequately address these concerns. PL 95341 is far more extensive in terms of providing Native Americans access to their traditional religious sites and for protection of areas which they have used for traditional hunting and fishing and gathering.

-FLPMA and PL 95341 which is the AMERICAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT mandated BLM to support strict preservation of cultural resources in the desert.

-Whenever possible we must respect the heritage rights and concerns of our Native Americans.

-We would like to see more input from Native Americans on how they feel on this subject since they were here first and we are the intruders.

-In Special Management Areas, any scientific projects allowed under those guidelines should be utilized only through the consent of the local Native American group.

## INADEQUACIES OF THE CULTURAL RESOURCES/NATIVE AMERICAN ELEMENT

### Representative Comments

-The public has inadequate data in this report to make a decision on Native American and Cultural values. The ethnographic data in this report is 99 and 44/100% lacking. You must get that data not only for the prehistoric value but also for the recent day use and values. BLM doesn't have Native American values properly addressed yet. The data is not expressed sufficiently enough evaluate it. It is a project that is going to take years, not months.

-Evaluating the Native American Values proposal was very disappointing. The Desert Plan is totally inadequate for cultural purposes because . . . mechanical guesswork, even when systematically drawn, is not the way to thoroughly discover and investigate cultural phenomena.

-In light of the fact that only 12,000 archaeological sites have been recorded in the Desert Plan area, and it is anticipated that over 100,000

sites exist, cultural resources management section in my opinion is not adequate.

-I could not find any acceptable land-use plan for the entire CDCA which adequately addresses the archaeologically sensitive areas.

-Violation of the U.S. Constitution's 1st Amendment; does not even come close to protecting the Native American cultural values.

-I don't think that California history has been well or adequately addressed.

-To take a 1% sample of this pristine area to study its archaeological significance scientifically or culturally is at best poor management.

-(I disbelieve) . . . the number of suspected Indian burial sites and sensitive cultural spots named in your tables.

-This element should have been resolved with Native American traditionalists and eliminated from the plan.

-This entire section, p. 51-59, should be written in language that is familiar to those who are reviewing it. Fancy language has no place in a document that is to be read by the general public.

Organizations Commenting on Inadequacies of the Cultural Resource/  
Native American Element

The Louisiana Land and Exploration Company  
Riverside Archaeological Society

CULTURAL RESOURCES/NATIVE AMERICAN VALUES MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

-Mitigation doesn't help preserve or protect religious sites. Classes M and I provide for mitigation impacts on any cultural resource of Native American value area and we believe that to allow that to happen would be a violation of Public Law 95341.

-This element should be given the No Action Alternative with each problem decided on a case-by-case basis.

-Favor No Action Alternative: 36 CFR 800 and PL 95341 (78) seem more than adequate.

-Ideally some of these could be cared for by universities, foundations, etc., both for preservation and for appropriate educational and recreational use.

-National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800) regulations are used more extensively than the American Religious Freedom Act (PL 95341). We believe Public Law 95341 offers greater protection to Native American values and cultural resources in the desert.



-Tremendous increase in interpretive staff is called for. Known archaeological and historical sites should not be open to motorcycles and ORV travel at all.

-Establish a central management office for BLM desert archaeological data, collections, and site records.

-Areas considered to be classified as open should first have a competent archaeological survey evaluation . . . a provision to expand protected areas when new archaeological or historical sites are discovered.

-Under any alternative, cultural resources would be better protected if strict regulations on the extent of off-road vehicle use were made. A definite ongoing need for . . . monitoring (procedures to monitor the status of the known or predicted resources and values).

#### 4. RECREATION

Although the management of recreational resources and values is a major concern of much of the public comment, most of these remarks will be found under the topics of wilderness and motorized vehicle access. The Recreation Element received direct criticism both because of its excessive emphasis on off-road vehicle recreation and its emphasis on wilderness recreation. The management of motorized vehicle competition events was an issue; vehicle enthusiasts proposed a rest-rotation system which they believe would save areas from damage resulting from repeated and concentrated use of the area for events. How much abuse a single event of this type causes was a topic of debate for some reviewers.

Several letters advocated the institution of a Desert Trail and advised its inclusion in the Proposed Plan Recreation Element. Others urged additional wilderness areas or National Park establishment to accommodate a growing interest in non-motorized-vehicle-oriented recreation. Some of these reviewers felt that the estimation of potential visitors to a Mojave National Park was much too low; and that a corrected version would justify both the establishment of this park and the designation of extensive tracts of land for wilderness.

Some vehicle users felt that curtailment of their traditional access to the desert was caused by inflated claims of vehicle damage to the environment and unfair association with a small percentage of vandals and trespassers. Many felt that desert recreation was impossible without a vehicle; several noted they had not observed hikers in the desert in many years of visits. Many letters describing hiking experiences in various parts of the desert refuted this assertion; many contained comments about unpleasant confrontations with vehicle-riding recreationists, typically young people on motorcycles.

Some commenters urged a stronger emphasis on aesthetic values in the Plan, and in this element in particular. More emphasis on visual resources management was encouraged.



Recommendations were made to expand in the plan the discussion of the importance of rockhounding and hunting in the California Desert. The social and scientific value of rockhounding, in particular, was the topic of several letters. Also urged by some was a rewrite of the element to make it more understandable to the public, with location of floral displays, scenic areas, and other locations of interest displayed for public benefit.

Some commenters objected to the inclusion of research and educational needs in this element and advocated more emphasis on the fostering of these activities.

#### FAVOR PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE, RECREATION

##### Representative Comments

-I favor a minimum of human impact and a maximum of public education concerning the California Desert. High human impact in the form of recreational/off-road vehicles and large numbers of people can have a devastating effect on the desert ecosystem with effects that can reach far into the future.

-I feel that the Protection Alternative best fits the needs for recreation. The present facilities and areas are being overused.

-Protection Alternative seems as though it affords several diverse interests and concerns consideration and protection.

-The Protection Alternative with a heavy emphasis on total control would be the best for the element prescribed. Total control of vehicular use is a must, for the motorized vehicle is one of the most destructive tools man has devised.

-The Protection Alternative is the only plan that will really protect the desert values (which are important to recreation). The desert environment is so fragile and the possibility of recovery so remote that it must be protected now.

##### Organizations Favoring Protection Alternative, Recreation Element

Educational Division of the Los Angeles County Museum  
Animal Protection Institute of America  
Desert Fishes Council

#### FAVOR BALANCED ALTERNATIVE, RECREATION

##### Representative Comments

-Favor recreational opportunities -- Balanced Alternative; visual resources  
-- Balanced; for resource values and significant areas, Balanced is best.

-Balanced Alternative is the best except for a hopefully bigger wilderness area. Balanced Alternative will allow for all different types of recreation. Use Alternative would leave little area for other important uses. Protection Alternative leaves little room for people who enjoy recreation.

-Balanced Alternative would best meet the needs of recreationists, except dunes (Protection Alternative) and dry lakes with endangered plant species near them. ORVs cause wind erosion and compaction of the dunes. Access roads and trails are very necessary for rockhound desert use as the "safe pedestrian distance" is so short that a great percentage of tentatively ideal wilderness areas could never be visited by average rockhounds.

#### Organizations Favoring Balanced Alternative, Recreation

Kern County Fish and Game Protection Association  
Sportsmen's Council of Central California

#### FAVOR USE ALTERNATIVE, RECREATION

##### Representative Comments

-The Use Alternative best suits the needs emphasizing travel on existing roads in most areas. Recreation should take place in all areas of the desert such as under the Use Alternative.

-The Plan adopted must have acceptance of the users or it will be unenforceable.

-Because it opens a great portion of the desert for the use of the great majority of people who would want to go out to this vast area, I especially like the large number of campgrounds provided in the Use Alternative.

-All of these areas have been used many years. Trails are on this land, and I see no point in closing this land.

-Some dune areas should be exempt from vehicle restrictions.

-We need fewer restrictions, fewer cops.

#### Organizations Favoring Use Alternative, Recreation

Northwest Road and Trail Association

FAVOR EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL PARK PLUS ADDITIONS TO JOSHUA TREE AND DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL MONUMENTS

##### Representative Comments

-I support the Mojave National Park sub-alternative of the Protection plan and the proposed Cahuilla unit as a wonderful area.

-Support the creation of a Mojave National Park and additions to Death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments.

-Would protect some of the finest Sonoran Desert ecosystem in California as well as the prime habitat for desert bighorn, desert tortoise and a wide variety of other animals and plants.

-This would insure that this valuable area with all its scenic qualities could be properly preserved and its endangered wildlife saved from extinction, which now threatens from overuse and unwise development activities.

-This is the only way to protect these sensitive desert resources. As a multiple-use agency, BLM will never be able to create the recreation setting the vast majority of the public demands to see for these areas.

-The Mojave National Park would comprise everything between I-15 and I-40 with the Colorado River/California border eastern boundary and including Lanfair Valley.

Organizations Favoring East Mojave National Park With Additions to Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Monuments

Archaeological Survey Association of Southern California  
Boron Garden Club  
California Wilderness Coalition  
Citizens for a Mojave National Park  
Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk  
El Dorado Audubon Society  
Friends of the Earth  
Golden Gate Audubon Society  
Hemet High Conservation Club  
Humane Civic Association  
Lake Tahoe Audubon Society  
Marin Audubon Society  
National Outdoor Coalition  
Natural History Museum, Balboa Park  
Rites of Passage, Inc.  
Riverside Alliance for Survival  
Riverside Audubon Society  
The Wildlife Society, Arizona Chapter  
Riverside Archaeological Society  
San Diego Society of Natural History  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club (Ventura)  
The California Native Plant Society  
The Desert Protective Council  
The Whittier Audubon Society  
The Wilderness Society

## FAVOR EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION, NOT CONTROLS

### Representative Comments

- The emphasis on interpretation by BLM is long overdue.
- You could control the decent people but not the others who do most of the damage. I think it would be a waste of money and manpower to try to control or have controlled camping areas.
- The environmental awareness program of this Plan element is very necessary and important.
- I support research and education facilities.
- An education effort should include the theme of use but not abuse as well as the need for resource protection.

### Organizations Favoring Emphasis on Education, Not Controls

National Outdoor Coalition

## FAVOR STRICT CONTROLS AROUND FACILITIES

### Representative Comments

- ORVs have no place near camping facilities, especially includes all bikers, noisy, destructive, smelly, inconsiderate, everything one left the city to escape.
- I can see a great need for controlling areas where campers congregate. Many of them carry their motor bikes. Trails that start out as hiking trails eventually become motor trails.
- Campgrounds in the riparian areas should be totally limited, such as in the Corn Springs campground, in order to protect the elf owl.
- I think there should be prominent signs around campsites forbidding use of the trails for other than walking, and stating, of course, the fine.
- Rockhounds should not be grouped with bikers, sand dune buggies, etc.

## DESERT RECREATION IS NOT UNDERSTOOD BY BLM

### Representative Comments

- BLM contends that one must be alone and unable to see others on the horizon in order to experience wilderness solitude. A good many people can spend friendly minutes with strangers and still absorb benefits of solitude. Except for noisy ORV congregations, a small group of fellow hikers is a welcome experience.



-Your comments on recreational user conflict are pure fantasy, at least in the areas we visit. My family, friends, and I have ridden over the past 13 years and have never seen a hiker or other non-ORV user more than 100 yards from a main road.

-I believe my family and myself represent by far the majority of the people that use the desert, enjoying the beauty and solitude and adventure of exploring the back roads of our California history.

-We believe all of us should enjoy it but that places should be set aside and kept there for the various types of recreation.

-Out in the desert you see people from all over relaxing. I have never seen people enjoy themselves like they do in the desert. It's their getaway, their fantasy.

#### RECREATION MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

-Strong measures should be considered for limiting recreational vehicle use to designated areas only.

-Favor no new National Parks and no expansion of National Monuments.

-Do not close rockhounding areas.

-Increases in wilderness for backpackers and drive-in camps for hikers are needed.

-Some regions should be opened for ORV use, but sand dunes and dry lakes should be more restricted to off-road use since they are so unique.

-There should be access corridors left through wilderness areas. Existing roads and trails should be closed only when necessary to protect the desert. Common sense and consideration of people needs governing criteria.

-ORV open areas should be reduced to 10, competitive areas reduced to 4, hillclimbs reduced to 2 or 1 because of erosion problems. Where possible, new National Parks should be established in some areas.

-I think the desert should be a place where everyone can go and get some benefit and pleasure out of it.

-Agriculture, grazing and other useful resource activities should be given greater importance, and where these activities do not take place recreation should be unlimited.

-Desert ecosystem is such that to protect a life system large areas must be included to buffer the more fragile cores.



-The desert trail in the BLM plans in Sec. C-2 Recreation, p. 63, should be under "significant areas" and the route should be shown on Recreation Element maps.

-I would like to request this committee to protect the rights and privileges of the majority of people who enjoy the desert and not be influenced by powerful special interest groups.

-Need information for the best areas for wildflowers, photography, bird watching, etc., from overlays that were prepared by the staff.

#### Organizations Making Recreation Miscellaneous Comments

National Outdoor Coalition

Rockhound Fieldtrippers

Valley Observed Trails Enthusiasts Motorcycle Club

### 5. WILDERNESS

Most people commenting on alternative CDCA wilderness proposals generally approved of the concept, but displayed widely varying opinions on how extensive a wilderness system is desirable.

The CDCA wilderness inventory completed in February 1980 was the source of some criticism. Several letters recommended the inclusion of the Cadiz Valley-Iron Mt. area. A number of letters also urged the separation of the Wilderness Study and Reporting phase from the construction of Plan alternatives, claiming that the consideration of wilderness values was being rushed and confused with less essential priorities.

Some commenters felt that the 1964 Wilderness Act criteria, which had been developed for use in non-desert areas, were inappropriate for evaluating the special qualities of the desert. The contention that many WSAs contained roads, by users' standards, was another concern. Proponents of an extensive wilderness system urged the inclusion of a wide variety of desert land forms and ecosystems, a variety which some said was lacking in the Balanced Alternative. The attendant benefits which wilderness designation would provide in terms of quality and ecosystem vitality were often cited as a justification for an extensive wilderness system, although some commenters expressed reservations about whether Class C provisions for livestock grazing, wild horse and burro control, and ORV access were stringent enough. Other values of maximum wilderness designation: greatly increasing demand for primitive recreation ("witness the overcrowding in National Parks"); the economic concept of irreversibility favors wilderness designation because it reduces opportunity costs; the value of preserved genetic pools and urban escape sanctuaries will far outweigh short-term benefits of economic exploitation of resources.

Advocates of a conservative approach to wilderness designation often denounced what they saw as an "elitist" attitude which favored access only for young, able-bodied persons without families. They also argued that

because of the harsh quality of the desert, barring vehicles would essentially lock these areas away forever, with little benefit to the public. Wilderness designation, in the view of some, might even be detrimental to some goals of preservation, such as providing water and other aid for wildlife.

Other said: The values of known mineral and energy resources and social benefits to recreationists far outweigh the value of preserving habitat for species whose survival may have trivial value for humans. The desert has a natural defense against extensive intrusions; the encroachment by people in vehicles may have reached its peak with the current and probably irrevocable gas shortage.

"Natural" wilderness designation supplied by desert terrain and climate, rather than arbitrarily imposed administrative designations, was recommended by some.

Middle-ground wilderness advocates recommended a variety of selection criteria including proximity to urban areas, a variety of terrain types, and "outstanding" wilderness rating.

Many reviewers recommended an explanation of the wilderness ranking criteria in the element and the rationale for recommendations of the various alternative wilderness configurations. This was considered a serious lack, as was the omission of a WSA-by-WSA description of values and impacts by various plan alternatives in the EIS.

The importance of precise boundary delineations and township and range descriptions of these areas was also noted.

#### FAVOR PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE, WILDERNESS

##### Representative Comments

-I favor Protection Alternative. I believe 43% of the CDCA is not too much to ask out of the total. There are few places left in California where one can fully escape from the signs of civilization. Any area, mountains or lakes or desert, has an equal right to existence on this planet. Humans do not need to despoil or inhabit or even visit every inch of the earth.

-We should preserve as wilderness more acreage and more diverse types of desert land classes than provided by the Balanced Alternative. The various parks and monuments in the desert are already too crowded . . we need more.

-The Protection Alternative needs to be adopted because the percentage difference between the alternatives is too great. Only with this alternative will environmental awareness hope to be achieved. The Use and Balance alternatives are a joke. Why do both of these alternatives have so little wilderness when the public in national, state, and desert polls wants more protection of wildlife and ecology?

-I would recommend protecting as wilderness about 3,600,000 suitable acres selected as best representing the objectives of the Protection Alternative.

-An extensive desert wilderness system can provide a yardstick to monitor environmental changes of all kinds.

#### Organizations Favoring Protection Alternative, Wilderness

Citizens for a Mojave National Park  
Kern County Fish and Game Protection Association  
Sportsmen's Council of Central California  
Animal Protection Institute of America  
Desert Fishes Council

#### FAVOR BALANCED ALTERNATIVE, WILDERNESS

##### Representative Comments

-The Balanced Alternative provides the protection needed to guarantee the preservation of high wilderness quality areas while allowing for diverse usage of areas designated to have low wilderness qualities.

-I like the fact that some wilderness areas are near urban centers. With the gas shortage and high prices the Balanced Alternative would let us enjoy wilderness.

-The Balanced map seems to be well spread out and the wilderness areas are well divided over the whole area. This gives everyone someplace closer to go.

-I do not think one can turn something into a wilderness area by ripping up roads, etc., as some seem to feel BLM is proposing, so I favor the Balanced Alternative.

#### FAVOR USE ALTERNATIVE, WILDERNESS

##### Representative Comments

-Due to weather, wilderness areas in the desert would have a limited use at best.

-The Use Alternative provides adequate wilderness type areas, both designated and nondesignated.

-Best expresses the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies views . . . only those wilderness areas with impeccable wilderness qualities.

-Wilderness without people being able to get close enough to enjoy it can't really justify its existence.

-What good is pristine beauty if none can see it? Our beautiful sights should be available to the elderly and young as well as the hardy.

-I support the Use Alternative mode to exclude as wilderness any desert areas which include roads.

#### Organizations Favoring Use Alternative, Wilderness

Northwest Road and Trail Association  
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies

#### FAVOR MORE WILDERNESS THAN PROPOSED IN PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE

-I am in strong agreement that as much of the desert as possible should be regarded as wilderness and given the protection it should receive.

-I feel that all land worthy of a wilderness designation should be recommended for inclusion. This would include nearly all highly scenic and highly fragile areas.

-The Protection plan is generally inadequate as many wilderness areas are not considered at all.

-The Protection Alternate comes closest to protecting an adequate portion of the desert as Congress designated wilderness; however, even the Protection Alternative omits 31 areas without adequate explanation.

-I support the greatest possible wilderness designation and support any option that will maintain large desert areas in their pristine state.

-Most of the CDCA should be designated as wilderness. Only road corridors should remain out of this protection. All 5.7 million acres of WSAs should be recommended for wilderness.

#### Organizations Favoring More Wilderness Than In Protection Alternative

Friends of the Earth  
Humane Civic Association  
Riverside Audubon Society  
The Whittier Audubon Society  
Utah Audubon Society

#### BALANCED ALTERNATIVE IS NOT ADEQUATE FOR WILDERNESS

#### Representative Comments

-A minimum of the 1,800,000 acres seems hard to justify if other Federal agencies are asking for 2,630,000 acres by themselves . . . anything between 1,630,000 and 5,200,000 acres would seem reasonable and suitable.



-Balanced Alternative needs more wilderness in non-mountainous areas to cover a variety of habitats.

-The Balanced Alternative does not contain enough wilderness areas. Once the WSAs are designated, all the rest of the land is open to exploitation forever. There is no chance of adding to the WSAs. I don't think 7% of the CDCA is adequate or reasonable for the WSAs.

-Compromise between the Protection and Balanced alternatives. Mountain areas of Balanced Alternative plus other areas will give a wilderness selection that is manageable and truly balanced.

#### Organizations Saying Balanced Alternative Is Not Adequate for Wilderness

Animal Protection Institute of America

#### WILDERNESS ELEMENT NOT HANDLED PROPERLY

##### Representative Comments

-The Wilderness area criteria (as regards roadless area definition) cannot be any different in the California Desert than it is anywhere else in the U.S. The idea of as much as 43% of BLM lands being wilderness is ridiculous.

-The huge areas designated for wilderness in the Protection Alternative are completely unrealistic. Nobody goes out in most of the areas of the desert except for an occasional ORV.

-I believe the WSAs should not even be considered with the desert plan; they must be evaluated as a desert-wide wilderness system. A desert-wide wilderness system makes sense ecologically and should include a full spectrum of desert diversity and natural variety. An extensive desert wilderness system can provide a yardstick to monitor environmental changes of all kinds.

-In my estimation Section 2c of the Wilderness Act precludes the Sand Dunes from wilderness as proposed by BLM.

-A final wilderness inventory must be complete before any further use or disposition is considered in their case.

-A much more thorough analysis should be made of wilderness options.

-Large areas should be considered as wilderness areas simply because they are so close to desolation and are very fragile.

-I feel that all the WSAs should be held in interim study status until a reasonably adequate review can be made and the public can make suggestions on other potential WSAs.



### Organizations Saying Wilderness Element Was Not Handled Properly

Friends of the Earth  
The Phantom Duck of the Desert  
Sea and Sage Branch of National Audubon Society  
The Wildlife Society

### AGAINST WILDERNESS

-Wilderness designations mean that only younger hikers will have access. This is not fair to the growing number of seniors who have paid to keep this country alive and well.

-How the public might enjoy a wilderness area without spoiling it is the biggest reason I do not feel more land should be restricted as wilderness.

-Wilderness areas would close off the desert to the handicapped, young and old, and people not in excellent physical condition.

-We submit that lands proposed for wilderness do not meet the roadless requirements or the wilderness quality requirements of the Wilderness Act.

### Organizations Against Wilderness

N.R.C. Gem and Mineral Society  
United Four-Wheel Drive Associations  
Rockhound Fieldtrippers

DRAFT PLAN DOES NOT EXPLAIN HOW DECISIONS WERE MADE OR DOCUMENTED .

### Representative Comments

-I want information on criteria used for ranking and supporting documentation rationale for dropping areas of consideration between Balanced and Use categories. How can wilderness areas be completely surrounded by open use areas and yet survive?

-The Wilderness Element is incompletely explained and cannot be adequately commented upon. The reasons for the ranking and selection of WSAs are not given. An examination of the Forest Service Rare II allocations in court has found them unacceptable, and I am not convinced the BLM has done much better.

-Need documentation as to how areas were eliminated as candidate WSAs. Some WSAs rated "Fair" were in Class C (WSA 132), while some rated "Outstanding" were placed in Classes L & M (WSA 221).

-BLM has not offered a full range of viable alternatives for wilderness, nor have they disclosed how different WSAs were rated suitable or unsuitable by Plan Alternatives.

-Your wilderness review process definitely needs an immediate overhaul, and improvements should be seen in the final Plan. The public should also know how its input was used.

Organizations Saying Draft Plan Does Not Explain How  
Decisions Were Made Or Documented

California Wilderness Coalition  
Committee for Green Foothills (Palo Alto)  
Friends of the Earth  
Humane Civic Association  
Kern County Fish and Game Protection Association  
Lake Tahoe Audubon Society  
Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society  
National Audubon Society  
Conejo Audubon Society  
Natural History Museum, Balboa Park  
Sportsmen's Council of Central California  
The Wildlife Society  
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society  
Sierra Club  
San Diego Society of Natural History  
Marin Audubon Society  
Whittier Audubon Society  
The Wilderness Society

WILDERNESS DECISIONS NEED TO BE RELATED TO RESOURCE VALUES

Representative Comments

-In every planning area where wildlife values and natural ecosystems are still intact or capable of restoration, these two items have to receive top billing for future management options.

-Proper wildlife treatment will result if 30% is Class C and 40% is Class L. It is in the best interest of all people to work for this objective. There may be trade-offs that favor permitting some few species to become extinct where great expense or competing values are involved.

-Emphasis should be placed on the mountains as these are rugged areas less accessible to people and more likely to remain wilderness.

-Sensitive environmental areas must be preserved from exploitative damage, and as much wilderness as possible has to be designated.

-The Wilderness Element should be altered to a balanced alternative plan with no more than 20% in wilderness designation . . . primarily . . . desert bighorn sheep refuges, possible expansion of refuges.

## WILDERNESS VALUES NEED PROTECTION FROM MOTORIZED VEHICLES

### Representative Comments

-No matter which alternative is chosen, all wilderness areas must be surrounded with limited access or buffer areas lest we lose wilderness to infringing motor vehicles. We all know rules are hard to enforce in the desert for the good of the desert.

-If proposed wilderness areas are opened to motorized vehicles for an estimated five years, the areas that do receive wilderness designation will have lost a large percentage of their wilderness value because of vehicles.

-Such areas as the Imperial Sand Dunes are really perfect for ORVs and are places where such vehicles and use can really do no damage to such topography.

-I would like to see volunteer programs employed as the work force behind extending wilderness areas and educating the visitors as to management aspects.

### Organizations Saying Wilderness Values Need Protection From Motorized Vehicles

Kern County Fish and Game Protection Association  
Lake Tahoe Audubon Society  
Sportsmen's Council of Central California

## WILDERNESS MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

-Exploitative uses of wilderness areas should not be allowed. I recommend the curtailing and eventual elimination of livestock grazing in these areas.

-An effort should be made to provide for valleys within wilderness areas as much as possible.

-All restrictions must be clearly stated by BLM and other agencies before we can endorse or condemn the wilderness plan, but vehicular access corridors are necessary for public use.

-Worthy wilderness areas should only be ignored if they have very significant resources which are needed and are economically important.

-I particularly urge that wilderness be preserved at all costs in the desert and such uses as off-road vehicles, mining, and power development be prohibited or kept at a minimum.

### Organizations Making Wilderness Miscellaneous Comments

Archaeological Survey Association of Southern California  
California Wilderness Coalition

Cerro Gordo Mines  
Educational Division of the Los Angeles County Museum  
Committee for Green Foothills (Palo Alto)  
Rockhound Field Trippers

## 6. MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS

Most of responses received contained some comments on this controversial issue. Polarization of viewpoints was evident in such characterizations of this issue as "elitists vs. desert users" or "general public vs. vocal special interests." Often couched in terms of emotional invective, serious concerns were expressed about environmental degradation and the continuation of traditional lifestyles and recreational activities.

The recreational aspect of the issue generated most of the comment. Those favoring more control of access cite the proliferation of roads on the fragile desert environment; growing evidence of damage to soils, wildlife, desert vegetation, and cultural resource sites; the consumption of scarce gasoline supplies; and the suppression and displacement of other non-motorized forms of recreation which are increasing in popularity. Scientific articles detailing various forms of ecological destruction were among these comments. These viewpoints are countered by people who dispute claims of vehicle damage to the environment, or charge that the value of what may be disturbed is trivial in comparison to the benefits of family recreation derived from free pursuit of play experiences. Several commenters claimed that recreation in the desert is impossible without a vehicle: Those who wanted vehicle restrictions were "elitists" who wanted the desert locked up.

Some commenters asked that vehicle users not be characterized as a single group -- "ORV users" -- but rather as a range of users with diverse vehicle types and purposes. The term "off-road vehicle" was disliked by many vehicle users; "off-highway" or "on-way" were preferred because they suggested that drivers of these vehicles did not leave established roads and trails.

The "existing roads and ways" and "open area" vehicle management concepts were debated. Several reviewers suggested that such zoning was an abdication of management responsibility by BLM, that "existing roads and ways" areas were de facto open areas in which severe environmental degradation had occurred and would continue to occur. Also, open areas were illegal by Presidential Executive Order, they argued. Only roads designated for use should be allowed to carry vehicle traffic, and this designation should be made much sooner than the seven years proposed in the Draft Plan alternatives. Also, vehicles should be expressly barred from environmentally sensitive playas, sand deposits and washes. Countering this viewpoint were those who felt that the existing roads and ways concept was the only fair approach to vehicle management in the desert, and that existing roads and ways should be defined as they were in the Interim Critical Management Plan, as amended (ICMP), not as in the Draft Plan Motorized Vehicle Access Element. Many argued that road closures should occur only in areas immediately adjacent to rare or very sensitive resources; the justification of such a



vehicle policy is not only that the climate and size of the desert demands it, but also that arbitrary zoning of the desert has resulted in too much concentration of use in some areas. This congestion has produced damage which would not occur if use were allowed to disperse naturally over the desert terrain, these commenters believe.

Implementation of proposed vehicle controls was another source of concern. Supporters of the NOC alternative and others contended that enforcement of our unpopular program over such a vast area would be expensive and ultimately worthless. Much more effective results would be achieved by having interpretive specialists provide education in public safety and environmental consideration (Desert Awareness Events were cited as examples). Others strongly said that the Bureau has a public responsibility and legal mandate to curtail the destruction and pervasive influence of the vehicle on the desert environment and that an active and comprehensive plan of vehicle management on designated roads must be instituted immediately.

A number of other concerns related to the issue were also discussed in many letters: the "rest-rotation" principle of competitive event locations; the responsibility of organized group members vs. those of ORV use area; the rehabilitation of open areas; the allowed parking and camping width beside roads and ways; the need for proximity of open area to urban centers; the effects of curtailed access to rockhounding, mineral exploration, utility maintenance and other activities; and several site-specific requests to expand or curtail vehicle use.

#### FAVOR PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE, MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS

##### Representative Comments

-The Protection Alternative leaves probably too much of the CDCA open to ORVs in my opinion, but it's better than the Balanced Alternative.

-ORV use has already resulted in destruction of large segments of desert. ORV use is actually minor in numbers involved compared to nonconsumptive uses.

-BLM has an absolutely terrible record on controlling ORVs, and any measure less than full protection will be frittered away.

-Favored . . . to prevent destruction of natural environment; excessive noise pollution; conserve petroleum according to national requirements; decrease air, solid waste, and water pollution.

-With fuel shortages, the continued use of gasoline-powered toys for human amusement is foolish and destructive. The effects of off-road vehicles are long-lasting and nearly always invisible to the users.

-Restrict the use of any motorized vehicle in these areas and prohibit the use of dune buggies and motorcycles in any area other than a very limited and controlled one.



-Specific intensive use areas limited to 4% in the Protection Alternative is manageable for policing, especially with limited personnel budget.

-Specific areas must be set aside for them, maybe with an itinerant psychiatrist, and keep them out of the general desert area.

#### Organizations Favoring Protection Alternative, Motorized Vehicle Access

Kern County Fish and Game Protection Association  
Sportsmen's Council of Central California  
Animal Protection Institute of America

#### FAVOR USE ALTERNATIVE, MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS

##### Representative Comments

-Off-road vehicle users contribute \$330.4 million to the desert economy each year.

-It provides for continued motorized access to areas suitable for that purpose while protecting the majority of the desert with Multiple-Use Classes L and M.

-There is no other satisfactory method of gaining access to the desert, nor is there another way for the desert to provide more enjoyment for as many people as possible.

-The Use Alternative is really the best way to assure a rotation of the desert land. It doesn't really go far enough. By rotating usage, these areas would be given time to heal themselves.

-There has to be a definite effort to rotate the ORV events to give the desert a rest.

-The policies should be clear and restrict off-road travel wherever necessary.

-Many people couldn't enjoy much CDCA without the use of motorized vehicles. Many people employed in the desert, i.e., ranchers, miners, utility workers, could not get to where they are needed without the use of motorized vehicles.

-People in ORVs should be allowed to drive in desert washes.

#### Organizations Favoring Use Alternative, Motorized Vehicle Access

Northwest Road and Trail Association  
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies

## MOTORIZED VEHICLES ARE TOO DESTRUCTIVE

### Representative Comments

-It is time we started to show some concern for our environment before it is too late. Why can't people enjoy our incomparable deserts without feeling they must ride all over them in their ORVs? ORV recreation not only causes irreparable damage to a fragile ecosystem, it also creates terrible noise and dust pollution and is a waste of energy that we can no longer afford.

-Since vegetation and animal habitats are destroyed by ORV people, your objective should be to limit the destruction to areas within a certain radius of city limits. These areas can always be expanded later if demand for them increases.

-Having just returned from a four-day desert camping trip, part of what was so fantastic was the peace and quiet. Seeing a couple of dozen ORVs tearing up the landscape would have marred the experience greatly. The people of this country need places to get away from the noise and tensions of daily life.

-ORVs should not be allowed in critical habitat areas. Limit them to one area to minimize their mindless damage. Letting them have total freedom over the entire desert is unfair to others who wish to enjoy the desert in their way, too.

-The negative social impacts caused by a damaged desert environment should be weighed equally. The opportunity to travel cross-country, challenge rugged terrain, and visit remote areas can be achieved by other means than motorized vehicles.

-The adverse effects of the ORVs are well known and where they are to be permitted must be specified before the Plan's final adoption. ORVs are a major threat to invaluable habitat and unique archaeological sites.

### Organizations Saying Motorized Vehicles Are Too Destructive

Boron Garden Club  
Santa Cruz Museum Association  
Marin Audubon Society  
Animal Protection Institute of America  
Golden Valley Ecological Society

## MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS SHOULD BE CONTROLLED OR ELIMINATED

### Representative Comments

-Hope you will limit ORVs as much as possible, preferably to those areas already damaged, with no meets or races on public lands.

-I strongly urge you to adopt a plan that forbids such violent use of the desert as now occurs in many of the sand dune areas. I am one of thousands of photographers of the desert. I have won awards for my pictures, and after the sand buggies invaded the territory they left their ugly tracks so the area is no longer productive.

-I strongly object to ORVs being allowed to run the desert into one great dirt track.

-As far as dune buggies and motorcycles are concerned, in my opinion they should for the most part go to a small circus, preferably as a sideshow. They should not be allowed to intrude on the public inheritance of the American people.

-There should be no further ORV use in the desert areas.

-ORV use should be tightly controlled -- perhaps even put in fenced-in areas.

-By education and management, the public should be discouraged from ORV use. The adverse impact is so great that it will be necessary to stop all use of ORVs.

-Let them build their own private facilities on their own private land.

Organizations Saying Motorized Vehicle Access Should Be  
Controlled or Eliminated

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists  
Animal Protection Institute of America  
Bay Area Turtle & Tortoise Society  
California Wilderness Coalition  
Davis Audubon Society  
Desert Fishes Council  
Educational Division of the Los Angeles County Museum  
California Turtle & Tortoise Club (Los Angeles)  
California Wilderness Coalition (Davis)  
Citizens for a Mojave National Park  
City of Fresno Parks & Recreation Department  
Committee for Green Foothills (Palo Alto)  
Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk  
Desert Bighorn Council  
Earth Watch Club (Pierce College Conservation Club)  
El Dorado Audubon Society  
Golden Gate Audubon Society  
Golden Valley Ecological Society  
Madrone Audubon Society, Inc.  
Marin Audubon Society  
Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society  
National Audubon Society  
Conejo Audubon Society  
The Nature Conservancy-California Field Office

The Nature Conservancy-National Office, Arlington, Va.  
Natural History Museum, Balboa Park  
Sea and Sage Branch of the National Audubon Society  
Riverside Audubon Society  
The Wildlife Society  
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society  
Vermont Natural Resources Council  
National Wildlife Federation  
Sierra Club (Ventana)  
Friends of the Earth  
The Desert Protective Council  
The Desert Tortoise Council - Whittier  
Utah Audubon Society  
Wildlife Management Institute (Washington)

#### OPPOSE COMPETITIVE MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACTIVITY AND BLM SANCTIONING IT

##### Representative Comments

-Driving motor vehicles in competitive events should be severely restricted. They do not require a designated area for a part of the Plan, and they destroy the native desert values.

-The BLM should in no way sponsor off-road competitions. The desert never needed it (off-road competition), and our current energy problems make the situation worse.

-Reduce the number of roads that the public can use; stop the desert race people who tear up the desert and use up gasoline.

-We request that BLM not permit any unorganized ORV use such as the Barstow-to-Vegas motorcycle race. It's not entirely confined to existing mechanically maintained roadways.

-We request that the BLM not permit any point-to-point competitive ORV events anywhere in the CDCA other than open areas identified in the Balanced Alternative.

-I don't understand why the BLM wants to get into the business of operating race tracks and racecourses. Racing should gradually be phased out, not expanded. Gasoline will never be plentiful and races waste it. The vehicles used to race are not designed for the desert, or are designed for the desert but not to race. There are plenty of private race tracks.

#### AGAINST THE DESERT BEING CLOSED

##### Representative Comments

-Our family scrimps and saves so we can go on our "Mental Health Day" to use our ORVs. Government riding areas will cost more dollars. We have enough regulations in our society.



-I am against the BLM seeing to it that we desert riders will have even less desert to ride on than we do now. As it is, we have to travel a minimum of 2-1/2 hours to get to desert areas we are allowed to ride on.

-For the last six years, motorcycle desert racing has been forced into using a few specific areas over and over again. This is most unfair to both the desert and the desert user. It causes excessive damage to the desert environment and makes these areas unsafe to the user of off-road vehicles who is forced to an area eroded by constant overuse.

-Over the years I have seen area after area closed to motorcycle riding and then sit there with no one using it. Children need to get away and be with their parents.

-It seems a lot of people who don't use the desert are making a lot of demands for others, especially ORV users, not to use it. I have been riding off-road motorcycles for over 10 years and have seen lots of other ORV users and very few hikers, painters, bird watchers, photographers or horseback riders.

-We truly enjoy riding motorcycles in the desert and don't want to see our land taken away.

-We believe that many ORV users are willing to take this issue to litigation if need be and fight for one of the areas still open to the people and families who still enjoy driving and building ORVs.

-Our family is opposed and so are all of our friends and fellow campers to any further efforts to take any more land away or waste any more of our money in political red tape.

#### Organizations Against The Desert Being Closed

N.R.C. Gem and Mineral Society  
The Phantom Duck of the Desert  
Phillips Uranium Corporation  
San Diego County Council of Gem and Mineral Societies  
Rockhound Field Trippers

FAVOR MORE MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS

#### Representative Comments

-As an ORV enthusiast, I strongly feel that we are not being considered in your present planning and would like to see more access than we presently have. Use Alternative is only 14.4%; it should be 75%. Balanced Alternative is a mere 3.4%; it should be 50%. To be restricted to existing roads and trails is absolutely considered to be protection and not use.

-Don't close off roads to our wilderness entirely. We use existing roads and trails because we are self-protective. We can't sleep on the ground and walk far.

-The denial of vehicular access in the lower Colorado Desert would be a large personal loss to our families. The major portion of the year the Colorado Desert is no place to be afoot. The area is extensive and the temperature is 100° or more. It would be impossible to carry enough supplies and water.

-Any plan which forces ORVs into confined areas will be most damaging to the desert and to those who have chosen to compete in ORV competitive events.

-People in ORVs should be allowed to drive in desert washes.

#### Organizations Favoring More Motorized Vehicle Access

Arizona State Assoc. of 4-WD Clubs (Tucson)  
The Phantom Duck of the Desert  
Point Loma Navy Rockhounds  
Rockhound Fieldtrippers  
San Diego County Council of Gem and Mineral Societies  
Texaco Inc.  
United Four-Wheel Drive Associations  
Pacific Mineral Society, Inc.  
Valley Observed Trails Enthusiasts Motorcycle Club

#### DOUBT DATA OR CLAIMS AGAINST MOTORIZED VEHICLES

#### Representative Comments

-I find the results of your studies on page 9 that show 80% use for the above group (naturalists) and 11% motor vehicle use hard to believe. The dunes are indeed a beautiful site. We have never in the six years of playing in the dunes seen a back-packer or hiker crossing these dunes.

-The Olancho area was closed and declared a wilderness by the BLM because it showed that the concept being used by the BLM in their Desert Plan was a lie.

-The highest and best use of public land should be in accordance with the traffic of activity undertaken by the majority of the people who use it, which are the ORVs. During the thousands of hours I have spent traveling over the desert, I have never seen anyone with a backpack on.

-It is disturbing that no value is placed on the positive aspects of ORV usage.

-The rotation principle was being used successfully, the desert was able to heal quickly, the races were safe and fun, and people were enjoying them.

## Organizations Doubting Data Or Claims Against Motorized Vehicles

### The Phantom Duck of the Desert

#### MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

-The policies should be clear and restrict off-road travel only where necessary.

-Education and policing the bike user is a must if the Balanced plan goes into effect, for otherwise the motorcycle user will make a mockery of it.

-We need more funding and authority vested in a larger ranger force to arrest violators.

-What we need to develop is a plan to save what areas we can from further damage. The people who prefer the quiet beauty of nature should have as many rights as the people who use motor vehicles. We should all be able to have periods and places of quiet peace, undisturbed by noise of motorcycles and unmarred by wheel tracks.

-15% open, 35% existing, 35% designated, 15% wilderness. This appears to be a fully balanced plan.

-I am a bicyclist and have enjoyed riding in the desert. I am definitely against motorized vehicle use anywhere, but if we must allow them, let's keep it to a minimum.

-I oppose the inclusion of existing ways and ORV open areas. All vehicle routes must be designated at the time of the final Plan's adoption.

#### Organizations Making Motorized Vehicle Access Miscellaneous Comments

Committee for Green Foothills (Palo Alto)

National Outdoor Coalition (favors the rest-rotation idea)

Riverside Alliance for Survival (opposes ORV events in Classes L & M)

Valley Observed Trails Enthusiasts Motorcycle Club

### 7. ENERGY PRODUCTION/UTILITY CORRIDORS

Most comments supported the concept of preventing the proliferation of right of ways through the establishment of utility planning corridors. Many of those who favored the minimum 15 corridors of the Protection Alternative also urged a reduction in corridor width to 2 miles or less (200 meters on either side of an existing facility, according to one comment). Concern about the cost of such restrictions of options was discussed by several. Those urging a minimum of corridors said they were willing to pay higher utility costs to prevent degradation of natural values. Other commenters expressed less willingness to do so and remarked that the recent increases in energy costs would make some projects impossible if additional transmission costs were added. Spokesman said that if future projects were limited to a few

designated corridors and existing facilities, then facility costs and land use impacts would increase substantially, while reliability of service would decrease due to overconcentration.

Several letters protested the adoption of particular utility corridors. Residents of Morongo Valley and some communities in Coachella Valley, such as Desert Hot Springs, protested siting of corridors in their area.

Many desert residents also objected to the siting of conventional power plants in the desert because of their water consumption and air pollution. These were joined by comments which urged only the locations of power plants which would use local or renewable resources. Some comments encouraged support of vital geothermal and solar energy production and voiced opposition to coal-fired and nuclear-powered generating plants. Conversely, some felt that the desert was an appropriate, perhaps the only, place to situate new coal-fired plants because of land use and air quality restrictions in or near metropolitan areas.

Utility spokesman voiced concern about negative effects of Interim Wilderness Study Area management on new project proposals. Also, concerns were expressed about access for facility maintenance and the effects of corridor description on new energy development.

#### FAVOR PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE, ENERGY PRODUCTION/UTILITY CORRIDORS

##### Representation Comments

-I favor Protection corridor alternative. This provides realistically for alternatives for energy production and utility corridors and is the most reasonable approach to the coexistence of nature and humans.

-If transmission costs were really a significant factor, then utilities would build plants next to the users not hundreds of miles away.

-We do not wish to allow the proliferation of energy and utility corridors and sites in any area we wish to protect.

-The extra money involved in routing utilities is small compared to the overall cost of the utility itself.

-The Protection Alternative must be utilized to insure minimum negative impact on the desert.

-The trade-off between higher energy costs and preservation of wilderness should be resolved in favor of wilderness. I would personally rather incur these costs than to degrade the wilderness recreation values, for my benefit and for my children and their children.

##### Organization Favoring Protection, Energy Production/Utility Corridors

El Dorado Audubon Society



Friends of the Earth  
Kern County Fish and Game Protection Association  
Sportsmen's Council of Central California  
Animal Protection Institute of America  
Desert Fishes Council  
Riverside Archaeological Society

#### FAVOR BALANCED ALTERNATIVE, ENERGY PRODUCTION/UTILITY CORRIDORS

##### Representative Comments

-I favor Balanced Energy and Utility Corridor Element Alternative. The Protection Alternative does not consider human needs. The Balanced Alternative provides enough corridors to meet demands but not more than are needed. None go through any of the National Parks or Monuments. Although the people of southern California need energy and other utilities, it should not be detrimental to other resources the desert has to offer. This alternative allows room for progress in the future, new technology, transmission lines, and aqueducts if constructed and maintained with care, which can have little effect on environment.

-The Balanced Alternative allows growth.

-Utility services are essential to the people of this state and a balance between providing these utility services and meeting other environmental, recreational, and industrial needs must be maintained.

-Utility planning corridors associated with already approved projects or projects currently under regulatory review by the BLM or others should be added to Balanced Alternative.

-Communication sites in association with projects already approved or under consideration or which have unique siting requirements should be added to Balanced Alternative.

#### FAVOR USE ALTERNATIVE, ENERGY PRODUCTION/UTILITY CORRIDORS

##### Representative Comments

-I favor the Use Energy Production and Transmission Element. Maximum flexibility is necessary to meet the needs of the people for utilities in the future. There is need to leave plenty of options for the future.

-If we are going to make a mistake, better have it in the direction of over-use.

-Land for wildlife protection is intelligent as an idea, but too often people get carried away and seem to care for animals more than people. Science has only so many people who study and thus benefit from animals. If energy hostilities and problems are not solved, then there may be no earth, period -- let alone grieving over 2% of the world's species being lost.

-Utility corridors must be able to cross various land use classes. To do otherwise would result in a fragmented and impossible implementation plan for providing needed utility services.

-Consider people's needs as overriding when alternatives are neither technically nor economically feasible or justifiable.

#### Organizations Favoring Use, Energy Production/Utility Corridors

California Off Road Vehicle Assoc., Inc.  
Northwest Road and Trail Association  
National Outdoor Coalition  
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies

FAVOR MORE PROTECTION THAN PROVIDED IN PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE, ENERGY PRODUCTION/UTILITY CORRIDORS

#### Representative Comments

-I prefer absolutely no more "development." The Protection Alternative is the least objectionable. Unalterable damage has been done already.

-Favor Protection Alternative but do not totally agree with the 511,000 acres open to power plants. Do agree with the wind-generated energy potential.

-Protection Alternative is too generous to utility companies. A 5-mile-wide corridor is unbelievable.

-At the minimum I favor the Protection Alternative. I feel even this goes too far in allowing the degradation of the desert. Why give energy resource interests their dream demands in land and corridors?

#### Organizations Favoring More Protection Than Provided In Protection Alternative, Energy Production/Utility Corridors

Sierra Club  
The Desert Protective Council  
The Wilderness Society  
Utah Audubon Society

LIMIT NUMBER AND WIDTH OF CORRIDORS AND SUPPORT SHARING OF RIGHT OF WAYS

#### Representative Comments

-Efforts need to be made to incorporate transmission lines in already established right of ways.

-Putting anything that has to be added together in corridors is at least preferable to spider web trends. Why not wipe out some and put into corridors with others?

-Right of ways must be held and used in common.

-I believe that the existing energy corridors could be used more efficiently, and the need could be eliminated for new ones.

-I support sharing of these right of ways. It's so obviously practical. I see no reason why utility companies must each develop their own right of ways.

-If you don't know where the source of energy will be located, why is it necessary to provide 5-mile-wide corridors? Recent studies have shown 2-mile-wide requirement to be exaggerated.

-The proposed corridor width should be narrowed to mitigate the adverse energy-related impacts assessed in EIS.

-Energy corridors, if necessary, should parallel as close as possible existing highways.

-Please try to have utilities use the same corridor as much as possible.

#### VARIOUS CONCERNS ON POWER GENERATION

##### Representative Comments

-I think we must have atomic power plants out in the desert to help solve the energy crisis.

-The best place to locate all future electric generating plants, both nuclear as well as geothermal, would be in the California Desert.

-The primary determinant of the siting of energy production plants and utility corridors has to be the preservation of natural resources, not the desire of the utilities.

-The BLM, in the case of both wind and geothermal energy, does not seem to have taken into consideration getting the power generated from the site to the consumer.

-We are thinking in terms of building great structures to obtain more energy. I think instead we should look at plant productivity. The sustained yield would be much greater.

-A specific reference to size (of power plant land requirement) should be deleted. This figure (on size) may be misleading since the actual land requirement depends significantly on the size and technology of a particular plant.

-I urge you to do all you can to limit coal-fired power plants, especially in the remaining clean air region of the CDCA. Air pollution is the worst environmental degradation.

-I strongly oppose power plants being built in the desert, but would not oppose wind-generated power structures.

Organizations Stating Various Concerns On Power Generation

Educational Division of the Los Angeles County Museum  
Kern County Fish and Game Protection Association  
Sportsmen's Council of Central California

ENERGY PRODUCTION/UTILITY CORRIDORS MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

-Energy development should not interfere with wildlife habitat.

-Add energy corridors later if the necessity arrives.

-We would like to see the encouragement of the use of utility corridors for point-to-point racing.

-The location of sites and corridors should be determined around criteria that minimize resource impacts and not according to the desires of the power companies.

-Suitable water recharge areas for groundwater should be expanded when considering any water-related utility company question. Could utilities drain Owens Lake further?

-How can a power plant be justified for the mere electricity of a town when even one life, if not a whole species, is threatened?

-We think that the BLM must press for immediate resolution of the wilderness boundary issue before Congress in accordance with the final Plan. Because of the requirement to preserve WSAs until Congressional determination, utilities and regulators are unwilling to risk proposing to use these areas and be later overturned. This limits our ability.

Organizations' Energy Production/Utility Corridors Miscellaneous Comments

American Motorcycle Association  
Animal Protection Institute of America  
Chamber of Commerce, Desert Hot Springs  
Committee for Green Foothills (Palo Alto)  
Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk  
Desert Trail Association/Death Valley Hikers  
Riverside Alliance for Survival (favor fewer corridors)  
San Diego Gas & Electric (favor corridors)  
Soroptimist Club of Desert Hot Springs (oppose corridors)  
Valley Observed Trails Enthusiasts Motorcycle Club  
Wonder Valley Hi King Club (against corridor K)



## 8. MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Discussion focused on two questions. Would the exploration and development of minerals continue to be economically feasible under the Plan alternatives? Do controls on mineral activities allowed in the alternatives provide protection of natural and cultural values?

Some commenters disputed the assertions made in the Draft Plan that mineral development was an industry of major importance in the CDCA. They said important sources of minerals had already been discovered, and those commodities likely to be discovered were not rare or unique materials. Other commenters supported strict mineral restrictions, particularly in regard to the rehabilitation of exploited areas to forestall environmental impacts such as soil disturbance, wildlife habitat destruction, and groundwater pollution evident from past mineral operations. Some felt that legislation such as the 1872 mining law is typical of the extravagant subsidy of private business interests of which BLM has been guilty in the past and that this had been done at the cost of publicly owned natural environments.

Several commenters advocated much more accommodation of mineral exploration and development than was offered in any alternative but the No Action. The No Action Alternative was favored by some commenters who argued that the State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 and the environmental assessment process offered protection to the environment without constricting the widespread availability of land needed for exploration. The Multiple-Use Class system, in the view of some, adds additional overregulation with no significant increase in environmental protection. Reduced mineral and energy extraction will worsen a national economic situation already troubled by dependence on foreign sources of these materials, others said.

Many site-specific potential mineral locations and claims were noted by various interests who often called for a more extensive mineral survey before wilderness and other Plan designations occur. A cost-benefit analysis of the effects of the Plan alternatives on mineral development and extraction activity was urged by several commenters.

A number of commenters addressed the legitimacy of mining claims in which a perfunctory amount of assessment work was done to satisfy requirements of the law, but for no other purpose than to seek minerals.

FAVOR PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE, MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### Representative Comments

-I favor the Protection Alternative. Gross misuse of the environment is still evident where mineral exploration has taken place even though it was over 100 years ago.

-We strongly support the "Protection Alternative" with the reservation that "rehabilitation" of disturbed desert habitat will probably be nearly impossible within our lifetime.

-The Protection Alternative plan can be used to conduct the activities of legitimate mining interests with a minimum adverse effect.

-Agree with Protection Alternative; I see the need for mineral development but it must be closely watched and supervised so the least amount of damage is done to the desert.

-We should realize we have other sources in many areas of the world from which we may obtain many of the minerals necessary to our domestic and national uses.

Organizations Favoring Protection Alternative, Mineral Exploration and Development

Educational Division of the Los Angeles County Museum  
Kern County Fish and Game Protection Association  
Sportsmen's Council of Central California  
Desert Fishes Council

FAVOR BALANCED ALTERNATIVE, MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Representative Comments

-Scenic resources should not all be sacrificed for mineral rights but should be compatible with them.

-The Balanced Alternative has the correct distribution of classes and acres.

-Balanced is the safe and sane way at present but we acknowledge the possibility that the time may come when we will have to adopt a Use Alternative to get the minerals we need.

-As best I can tell the Balanced Alternative is best except for the exploration filing plan requirement.

-Unfortunately at these times the Balanced Alternative for Class L is apparently the best approach. Allows for extended exploration as socio-economic needs dictate. Since all minerals are finite and not renewable, future requirements may demand unlimited exploration and development.

FAVOR USE ALTERNATIVE, MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Representative Comments

-Mineral exploration under the Use Alternative will be regulated enough to reasonably protect the desert.

-Any increase in regulation of exploration in the desert plan area will be severely detrimental to the discovery and development of mineral resources.

-Mineral resources are vital to our national economy . . . only two basic industries supporting the economy come from the land: Mining and Agriculture . . .

-. . . A hiker enjoying a view unmarked by man could not compare in importance with a group of men earning a living from a mine not to mention our national economy's need for minerals.

-. . . Agree with Use Alternative. The development of mineral resources is necessary to the survival of our nation. Dune buggies and trail bikes are not.

-The processes that have created economic mineral deposits are very rare and their exploitation under reasonable environmental controls is essential wherever they are found.

-Our country depends on minerals to sustain our way of life. We should not get too dependent on other countries for the elements we need.

#### Organizations Favoring Use Alternative, Mineral Exploration and Development

Anaconda Copper Company  
Northwest Road and Trail Association  
Point Loma Navy Rockhounds  
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies

#### PROHIBIT OR SEVERELY CONTROL MINING AND DEVELOPMENT

##### Representative Comments

-I am totally against any mining activities. These uncalled-for activities will harm much of our wildlife and harm our whole ecosystem.

-Most mining claims are merely staked-out parcels of land with no minerals of value. Assessment work usually means that the claimant has run a bulldozer down the road.

-Considerations should be made for the public benefit and not for corporations and mining interests.

-The few mines we have seen in the desert were bad enough -- we don't need more.

-God gave the earth minerals, and that's where they should stay.

-It is my belief that we should not use up all of our resources now. We need to conserve these nonrenewable resources.

-Mining activity, although it is economically viable, is too often usurped by outside interests. The impacts of uranium mining are quite severe on a number of wild land qualities.

-These mining laws must be changed: Get tough and protect the public lands from this exploitation.

-Examining each site on a case-by-case method as would be facilitated by an EA or EIS would ensure a protected and useful environment.

-. . . continued underground mining could be allowed but no surface or open-pit mines should ever be allowed.

#### Organizations Favoring Prohibiting or Severely Controlling Mining and Development

California Wilderness Coalition  
Animal Protection Institute of America  
Riverside Alliance for Survival  
Roadrunner District, Inc.

#### PROHIBIT MINING IN SENSITIVE AREAS

##### Representative Comments

-Mining must be prohibited in any ACEC, wilderness area, critical, crucial or sensitive wildlife habitat, or any other area where serious degradation of natural resources would be expected to occur.

-No exploration can or should be allowed over most of the areas (parks, National Monuments and wilderness areas) and none elsewhere that results in surface soil disturbance.

#### FAVOR CONTINUED MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

##### Representative Comments

-With foreign supplies of mineral becoming unreliable, many minerals taken from the desert could spare the public considerable cost and hardship . . . .

-Please let's not lock up our minerals. They are very important to our country's wellbeing especially the local economy. The cost of mineral extraction is very high . . . more restrictions will add to that.

-We feel miners should be allowed to continue in mining activities.

-After retirement many enjoy searching for precious metals and will be deprived of the opportunity if desert lands are closed.

-I prefer an alternative which has less control than the present system. I support a plan which encourages mining and exploration with reasonable emphasis on reclamation.



-A huge slice of available territories will be locked up forever by these proposals, even the most generous of your four alternatives will result in limitations, severe limitations, as far as the industry is concerned.

-These raw materials are found and extracted in geographically rare places. The same geological processes create most of our most scenic areas.

-The lack of consideration for load miners -- those who extract the ore and remove it from the area for processing -- is unfair.

-There's been an inadequate mineral survey to justify decisions.

-Exploration itself does not seriously disturb the land. The actual mining operation causes moderate to severe impact, but only to relatively small areas.

-. . . The way you have restricted industry from looking, out in the desert, we could have another diamond field in our own backyard and we won't look for it because we can't afford to.

-There is no cause for bringing up abuses of the 1920s as an excuse for further restrictions in the 1980s.

#### Organizations Favoring Continued Mineral Exploration and Development

Anaconda Copper Company  
Arizona State Assoc. of 4-WD Clubs (Tucson)  
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
California Off-Road Vehicle Assoc., Inc.  
The Louisiana Land and Exploration Company  
National Outdoor Coalition  
N.R.C. Gem and Mineral Society  
Pathfinder Mines Corporation  
Phillips Uranium Corporation  
Orange County Modified Motorcycle Assoc.  
Palo Verde Valley Rod & Gun Club  
San Diego County Council of Gem and Mineral Societies  
Texaco Inc.  
United Four-Wheel Drive Associations  
Valley Observed Trails Enthusiasts Motorcycle Club

#### MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

-More time and money and manpower and technology is needed to evaluate the mineral potential of the area.

-We need a better assessment of the mineral wealth in the desert by more qualified people before the desert is closed to mining.

-Due to our critical energy crisis, we should try and develop what gas and oil resources we can in a controlled program.

-A recent survey has revealed that there are more than 50 basic laws generating thousands of regulations governing health, welfare and the environment which control mining in California.

-Put the enforcement of regulations concerning mining into the hands of people who understand mining laws and rights of the miner.

-In this element, you should have mentioned laws that require operators who abandon their claims to restore them to their original appearance. Existing laws do not have much "teeth."

-The access roads and subsequent mining development could be restricted for the mining companies' use only.

-The entire CDCA should be withdrawn from mining, oil, gas, and geothermal leasing.

-It is especially important that established environmental assessment and mitigation measures be noted in the multiple-use class guidelines of the Draft.

-The analysis fails to state the long-term effects of polluted underground water caused by mining operations. We need to know where polluted water will travel and what areas it will appear in. We need to know exactly what beneficial uses of water will be affected by the pollutants.

-Prospecting should be conducted with as little impact as possible; use helicopters instead of roads or use mules for transport (solve feral burro problem).

-Mining operations should have to use their own water -- ship it in and reuse it--not tap the existing water supplies in the desert.

#### Organizations Making Mineral Exploration and Development Miscellaneous Comments

Anaconda Copper Company  
Boron Garden Club  
Committee for Green Foothills (Palo Alto)  
National Wildlife Federation

### 9. LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Comments relating to this topic debated the social and economic values of grazing in the CDCA and its impacts on the desert environment.

Some commenters said that livestock grazing and cattlemen had been discriminated against in the Plan alternatives. Cattlemen questioned the methodology by which information to establish stocking levels was reached, disputed the existence of conflicts between livestock and bighorn sheep and desert tortoise as they were reported in the Plan, and asked why no

provisions for protection of livestock from vandals and trespassers was provided. The poor control of burros was blamed for most wildlife damage, especially to bighorn sheep, and these burros were also said to be harming grazing operations. Wildlife in general benefit from ranchers' development of water, and other activities, in the view of some. Several commenters described grazing as a natural use of the desert which produces food and fiber from material which would otherwise be wasted through die-off each year and said that vegetation is sometimes even enhanced by proper grazing techniques.

Some commenters argued that ranges on public land have been degraded in the past by improper grazing, and that the environmental consequences of these activities and conflicts with sensitive wildlife values were severe enough to warrant stringent restrictions on, or elimination of, the activity. Some commenters accused BLM of sanctioning a traditional activity which has little public benefit, but rather constitutes an extravagant subsidy of a few business interests. A more detailed social and economic analysis of the contribution of grazing to local and regional economies was desired.

Some felt that stockyard feeding had made desert range grazing impractical, and much more valuable benefits were available from desert lands than those provided by cattle and sheep production. Range carrying capacity and 200 pounds per acre figures were questioned and disputed both by those favoring and those opposing the activity. Several letters called for more stringent control of the activity in Class C areas.

Other concerns and questions: impacts of grazing on adjacent landowners; nature of CFR regulations in regard to grazing management; validity of statements relating to effects of livestock grazing on floral displays and tortoise foraging; and the system of measuring forage in ephemeral ranges.

#### FAVOR LIVESTOCK GRAZING WITH NO RESTRICTIONS

##### Representative Comments

-Public land should be utilized fully for grazing. It is wasteful to allow good protein grass to mature and die each year without domesticated livestock benefiting from it.

-Protein is needed to alleviate starvation in the world. This land does not produce anything anyway; will not harm the ecology; more practical than feed lots.

-On many rangelands, livestock grazing is the most efficient and practical way of manipulating vegetation cover. It is a natural use.

-I do not subscribe to the "no livestock grazing" or "reduced grazing to optimize wildlife protection" sub-alternatives.

-Beef and lamb prices are "high" enough as it is.

-I do not believe we should have the luxury of allowing grazing rights to decrease with attendant decline in food production.

-I don't see any reason why grazing couldn't be allowed in wilderness type environments as long as it was kept within reasonable bounds.

#### FAVOR REDUCED GRAZING TO OPTIMIZE PROTECTION OF OTHER NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

##### Representative Comments

-I see no need for the 13 new grazing allotments, 11 of which are in WSAs.

-No justification is given for these new allotments, and they will cause significant impact to wildlife and archaeology.

-The alternative which most closely expresses my view on livestock grazing is the sub-alternative in the Protection Alternative for reduced grazing to optimize wildlife.

-Grazing is important economically but you should have a special concern for wildlife. Can wildlife and livestock survive together? How easy is it to determine carrying capacity?

-I strongly urge you to oppose any increase in cattle grazing on the wild, fragile desert lands.

-I believe grazing should be very much reduced.

-Sheep grazing should be stopped in Fremont-Stoddard to protect tortoises.

-Grazing should be eliminated in identified areas of bighorn sheep during periods of bighorn presence.

-I would recommend that you not just curtail but eliminate livestock grazing in all wilderness areas.

-Should have a way to resolve the conflict between livestock and wildlife in riparian habitats. Bighorn sheep and other endangered, threatened or sensitive species should come first.

##### Organizations Favoring Reduced Grazing To Optimize Protection of Other Natural And Cultural Resources

California Wilderness Coalition (Davis)  
Committee for Green Foothills (Palo Alto)  
Committee for the Preservation of Green Foothills  
Desert Bighorn Council  
Friends of Wildlife  
Hemet High Conservation Club  
Madrone Audubon Society, Inc.



The Nature Conservancy-California Field Office  
The Phantom Duck of the Desert  
National Resource Defense Council, Inc.  
The Wildlife Society  
Desomount Club  
Sierra Club (Ventura)  
Golden Valley Ecological Society  
Wild Horse Organized Assistance, Inc.  
The Desert Protective Council  
The Wildlife Society  
The Nature Conservancy, National Office, Arlington, VA  
Riverside Archaeological Society

#### FAVOR MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS TO CONTROL GRAZING

##### Representative Comments

- "It is the unanimous opinion that livestock grazing should be controlled to protect the desert."

- Multiple-Use Classes C and I: The impacts of livestock grazing are significant enough to require the writing of an EAR before issuing grazing permits. For riparian habitats and under Class C, I would favor fencing these critical portions.

##### Organizations Favoring Management Restrictions To Control Grazing

Bay Area Turtle & Tortoise Society  
Arizona State Assoc. of 4-WD Clubs (Tucson)  
National Audubon Society  
Conejo Audubon Society  
National Resource Defense Council, Inc.  
The Desert Tortoise Council, Whittier  
The Wildlife Society  
Wildlife Management Institute (Washington)

#### FAVOR CLARIFICATIONS, MODIFICATIONS, ADDITIONS TO LIVESTOCK GRAZING ELEMENT

##### Representative Comments

- Please provide me with references for annual productions per acre turnout, minimum estimates for ephemeral ranges, and explain the derivation of the 200 pound figure as being desirable.

- I would like to support the Protection Alternative but need to know the degree to which these livestock industries contribute to local, county, and State goods and services. Will livestock (in areas affected by the Protection Alternative) be fed with grain or grass?

- Need information on location, criteria, and evaluation procedures to determine significant riparian areas (pg. 121). What type of fences are

involved, and how much money has been allocated for them? I suspect this section (pg. 120) is totally unsupportable by hard data.

Organizations Favoring Clarifications, Modifications, Additions to Livestock Grazing Element

The Wildlife Society  
The Wildlife Society, Arizona Chapter  
National Resource Defense Fund  
Sierra Club  
Wild Horse Organized Assistance, Inc.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

-The grazing is overdone and covers too much area. Why should the ranchers and some people benefit and spread their greed as far as they can? Government land is used pretty much like it was privately owned land.

-Many cattle and sheep ranchers graze their animals anywhere and public be damned. I live in Shasta Valley -- it's cattle country -- I know how they feel.

-Leasing of 4.5 million acres in 54 allotments to cattle and sheep interests should continue until a new evaluation of forage is made January 1, 1990.

-Garner Valley areas are natural grazing areas and part of the valley should be kept for this purpose.

-Rights of existing settlers naturally can't be ignored for their lifetimes, but the leases should be tied to their lifetimes, and private lands should be bought out. The only exceptions are: where local ranches are on a truly sustained yield; well managed, deferred, and rotation grazing; well established range management scheme near old settlements (Barstow, e.g.).

-No spraying of herbicides should be done in order to improve the range (especially Classes C and L). General predator control should not and must not be allowed in order to protect livestock.

Organizations Making Livestock Grazing Miscellaneous Comments

Northwest Road and Trail Association  
National Outdoor Coalition (NOC)

-No forage allocations should exceed the carrying capacity of the range. Forage should be allocated to wildlife before livestock. No changing or other conversions should be allowed for the benefit of livestock.

-Grazing management should stay the same as it is now -- relying heavily on the Taylor Grazing Act, a proven method.

-Watering areas and supplemental feed locations should be dispersed and minimized. Stocking rates and grazing areas should be determined not to have a negative impact upon wildlife and vegetation.

-All areas subject to grazing should be monitored for long-term changes in vegetative composition and other ecological changes.

#### FAVOR BALANCED ALTERNATIVE IN NUMBER OF GRAZING ALLOTMENTS

##### Representative Comments

-I am in favor of the Balanced Alternative where grazing is concerned.

-Areas/number of acres must be strictly controlled with respect to livestock grazing.

#### FAVOR THE NO GRAZING ALTERNATIVE

##### Representative Comments

-I would favor "no livestock grazing" sub-alternative to Protection Alternative.

-I believe that no amount of livestock grazing is compatible with preserving the California Desert.

-Domestic livestock grazing should be entirely eliminated from the CDCA.

-I firmly believe that all domestic (and feral) livestock grazing should be phased out at the earliest opportunity.

-So much damage has already been done by overgrazing, every effort should be made to restore the range to more natural status.

-Grazing is destructive to the desert in many ways. Grazing of sheep is especially damaging.

-Use this good land for the benefit of the public not just for the few "free-landers" using the 54 grazing allotments.

##### Organizations Favoring the No Grazing Alternative

Animal Protection Institute of America  
Boron Garden Club  
Friends of the Earth  
Golden Valley Ecological Society  
Kern County Fish and Game Protection Association  
Natural History Museum, Balboa Park  
Sportsmen's Council of Central California  
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society  
The Wildlife Society, Arizona Chapter

10. WILD HORSES AND BURROS

Most of the responses on this subject concerned burros; comments on wild horses were rare, and generally favored protection of their herds.

The majority of commenters agreed that feral burros had potentially adverse effects on the desert ecology and that, because they were introduced rather than native species, their numbers should be reduced in favor of native wildlife. While most responses supported humane reductions in burro herd size, a wide variety of means to accomplish this was proposed, including adoption (some felt the BLM program was too slow and costly), sterilization, fencing from water supplies, shooting through hunting permits, sale for pet food or transportation for desert recreationists and prospectors, and donation to Mexico or to primarily agricultural areas for use as draft animals.

Strong expressions of support for protecting burro and horse herds were made by some organizations who described these animals' earned place in the desert ecosystem and their contributions to recreational and other values of the desert. Conversely, some recommendations were made to completely eliminate these animals from the desert by whatever means possible.

Some comments mentioned a number of plant and animal species and environmental components threatened by proliferation of burro herds: bighorn sheep, desert water sources, and riparian vegetation were mentioned frequently. The herd management problem in Saline Valley was also discussed in several letters.

BLM's proposals were criticized for some as too slow and too conservative. The large herd level allowance of the Protection Alternative was called a "mockery" of its protective management stance by one reviewer, and this was echoed in other letters. Several letters recommended stiffer burro control in Class C areas to protect natural values.

Several letters recommended complete burro removal or reduction to reduce competition with livestock grazing. Some commented that burro control has been extremely ineffective since BLM assumed responsibility from ranch operators for this problem. The recommendations of District Grazing Advisory Committees regarding burro control were cited as examples of proper management techniques.

DISAPPROVE OF THE WILD HORSE AND BURRO ELEMENT

Representative Comments

-I object to classifying wild horses and burros along with livestock. The wild horses and burros are wild animals. They are not domesticated and should receive the same treatment as wildlife.



The American Horse Protection Association (AHPA) urges that the Draft Plan be rewritten to develop and evaluate real alternatives. This immense document offers no meaningful alternative proposals concerning wild horses and burros. AHPA hopes that the CDCA Plan and EIS will be modified to reflect these views and to comply with the intent of applicable Federal statutes.

-For some unexplained reason the Plan calls for maintenance of a greater number of feral burros under the Protection Alternative than under the Use Alternative.

#### Organizations Disapproving of the Wild Horse And Burro Element

American Motorcycle Association  
Davis Audubon Society  
Wild Horse Organized Assistance, Inc.  
The Wildlife Society, Arizona Chapter  
Animal Protection Institute of America  
Desert Fishes Council  
The American Horse Protection Assoc. , Inc.  
University of California, Santa Cruz, Campus Community Group

#### FAVOR REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF WILD HORSES AND BURROS

##### Representative Comments

-I support elimination by the most economical means of these animals (burros).

-The wild horses and burros are threatening different areas where other herds used to be. Bighorn and other riparian areas in the adjacent Inyo Mountains are being seriously threatened by this very large herd of burros.

-There is no reasonable rationale for maintaining populations of burros throughout their current distribution. Feral burros are a serious threat to bighorn sheep and many other species of wildlife, including reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates. There is no logic in allocations for undesirable exotics.

-Something must be done to curb the wild burro population explosion. They represent a clear and present danger to many native species within the CDCA.

-BLM should consider maintaining a few wild burro herds in areas of low resource sensitivity, but should not offer the Protection Alternative as protecting "burro nurseries" all over the desert.

-Donate burros to Mexico or some farming area where the animals are still used for agriculture.

-Wild horses and burros should be removed under Class C; also when the natural balance of nature is severely threatened.

-The burro is naturally a beast of burden. There's no reason he can't be put back to that use. (Backpackers can take them also to haul their garbage out.)

-Burros should be kept in limited numbers but only in nonsensitive areas which can accommodate them.

Organizations Favoring Reduction or Elimination of Wild Horses and Burros

Bay Area Turtle & Tortoise Society  
California Wilderness Coalition  
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
Citizens for a Mojave National Park  
Committee for Green Foothills (Palo Alto)  
Desert Bighorn Council  
Desert Fishes Council  
Desert Trail Association/Death Valley Hikers  
Earth Watch Club (Pierce College Conservation Club)  
El Dorado Audubon Society  
Friends of the Earth  
Golden Valley Ecological Society  
Kern County Fish & Game Protection Association  
Lake Tahoe Audubon Society  
Madrone Audubon Society, Inc.  
Marin Audubon Society  
Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society  
National Audubon Society  
Conejo Audubon Society  
Natural History Museum, Balboa Park  
Palo Verde Valley Rod & Gun Club  
Rites of Passage, Inc.  
Sea and Sage Branch of the National Audubon Society  
Sportsmen's Council of Central California  
Riverside Audubon Society  
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society  
The Wildlife Society, Arizona Chapter  
Vermont Natural Resources Council  
Desomount  
Sierra Club  
National Wildlife Federation  
San Diego Society of Natural History  
Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep  
The California Native Plant Society  
The Desert Protective Council  
The Desert Tortoise Council - Whittier  
The Wilderness Society  
Wildlife Management Institute - Washington, D.C.

## FAVOR PROTECTION OF WILD HORSES AND BURROS

### Representative Comments

"The overall tone of the document is blatantly anti-horse and burro. In each area of competition for resources, consumption by horses or burros is viewed as negative while their reduction or elimination is viewed as highly positive."

-The document is nothing more than an elaborate charade insofar as it applies to horses and burros. Each alternative considered would require a reduction in their animal units per month of approximately 80 percent. NFPA and the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act demand that the process of environmental analysis be more than an elaborate game in which all alternatives lead to the same conclusion.

### Organizations Favoring Protection of Wild Horses and Burros

Animal Protection Institute of America  
Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk  
Friends of Wildlife  
Humane Civic Association  
Wild Horse Organized Assistance, Inc.  
The American Horse Protection Association, Inc.

## WILD HORSES AND BURROS MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

-We favor elimination, or at least severe restriction, of the wild burro. He is an introduced species that is threatening to cause the extinction of the emblem of our society, the Panamint Daisy. We love our Daisy. Also he's threatening the bighorn sheep grazing land.

-If the adoption program is taken up, I would favor sterilization of these animals.

### Organizations Making Wild Horses and Burros Miscellaneous Comments

Northwest Road & Trail Association (favor Use Alternative)  
National Outdoor Coalition (favor Balanced Alternative with modifications)  
Riverside Alliance for Survival

## 11. WILDLIFE

Indirectly, this topic may have been the most discussed of all public comments. The quality of wildlife habitat was a bench mark against which many commenters discussed the various activities presented in the Plan. Whether wildlife was being overprotected or underprotected by the Plan alternatives was the main subject of debate.

Several letters supported the Protection Alternative for Wildlife because of its perceived strong protection of wildlife values, although some responses cited statements from the Environmental Impact Statement to attack the Protection Alternative as inadequate in a number of aspects of wildlife protection. These commenters recommended stronger provisions to restrict grazing, wild horse and burro numbers, and motorized vehicle use in the habitats of both federally listed endangered and threatened species, and sensitive and significant species' habitats. Threats to riparian habitats, the desert tortoise, bighorn sheep, fish and amphibian species, and raptors were mentioned most frequently. "Endangered" or "Threatened" listing was proposed for the desert tortoise in some letters. Several commenters approved of the EIS wildlife impact analysis which listed negative impacts for all four plan alternatives because all were demonstrated to permit decline in habitat quality. Several called for an improved Protection Alternative which would avoid a "piecemeal management approach of accommodating consumptive uses where they occur," and would adopt a resource-value oriented, ecosystem-conscious management philosophy instead.

To others, the Plan alternatives appeared to be overly weighted toward the protection of wildlife values; BLM's "worst case" wildlife analysis appeared to confirm this imbalance of treatment in view of these persons. The Wildlife Element and EIS analysis concentrate, some argued, too much upon a few selected species and distort the total picture of the CDCA wildlife resource. Such an approach would be expensive and overly extend staff resources so that little wildlife protection would occur in the Protection and Balanced alternatives. A more selective approach was urged. Other commenters discussed the value of wildlife species and various philosophies of management. A few commenters felt that artificial maintenance of wildlife habitat violated the natural operation of ecosystem stability and environmental system. Others felt that the Plan's wildlife management philosophy lacked a practical perspective -- that not all wildlife species were equally worthy of protection. To this end, a cost-benefit analysis of this resource was urged to remove decisions from subjective criteria.

Other subjects of concern: the reintroduction of native species which are no longer present, particularly pronghorn; predator control in relation to bighorn sheep protection; the proliferation of jackrabbits; introduction of desert exotics, such as the camel; the allowance of active wildlife management in Classes M and I; the validity of methodology used to identify conflicts between tortoise and livestock; provisions to develop water for wildlife; management by other agencies, especially the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service.

• FAVOR PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE, WILDLIFE

Representative Comments

-Any other alternative would surely destroy a great number of unique animals.

-There is a need to provide for maximum feasible active wildlife management and to rebuild sensitive listed species.



-Man can choose where to live; wildlife has no choice.

-Progress is slowly destroying the remaining trees and wildlife. Man is pushing the trees and wildlife just as the white man pushed the Indians off their land.

-Polls saying that the public favors more protection of wildlife and ecology (pg. 5) are in line with similar polls conducted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. You have neither the staff nor the funding to complete all the work required in this section. Protection of wildlife is glossed over.

#### Organizations Favoring Protection Alternative, Wildlife

Educational Division of the Los Angeles County Museum  
Kern County Fish and Game Protection Association  
Sportsmen's Council of Central California  
Animal Protection Institute of America  
Desert Fishes Council

#### FAVOR BALANCED ALTERNATIVE, WILDLIFE

##### Representative Comments

-If we try to protect all wildlife too strictly, we will end up hurting more than helping. Not enough protection and concern can be very bad.

-The wildlife would seem to be the most sensitive to extermination and the most difficult to manage.

#### FAVOR USE ALTERNATIVE, WILDLIFE

##### Representative Comments

-It sets aside more than an adequate number of areas and allows those who made the watering stations for wildlife to maintain them on a regular basis.

-After 17 years of use, wildlife is as prolific, if not more so. Wildlife will adapt to their surroundings better than people. Only pouring concrete destroys the land permanently.

-Most species of animals are OK. None of them have started to die off even when the ORVs are around. They are not endangered.

#### Organizations Favoring Use Alternative, Wildlife

Northwest Road and Trail Association  
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies

## AQUATIC COMMUNITIES' IMPORTANCE NOT RECOGNIZED

### Representative Comments

-It appears to me that your document nearly totally ignores and neglects aquatic communities throughout study area. I find no discussion of desert fishes or their habitat.

-The document fails to recognize that there is a continuum of the aquatic environment. A river or spring does not end at its banks. It is constantly being influenced by events taking place on the land surface.

-Desert springs are unique and little understood. Most of the springs have not even been surveyed for aquatic plants, fish and amphibians, and other wildlife. There are over 700 known springs in the Desert Conservation Area and only six were recommended as ACECs in the Protection plan.

-Plan lacks adequate protection for riparian habitats.

### Organizations Believing Aquatic Communities' Importance Not Recognized

Desert Fishes Council  
Friends of the Earth  
The Wildlife Society  
Riverside Audubon Society  
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society

## FAVOR PROTECTION OF TORTOISE AND OTHER IMPORTANT SPECIES

### Representative Comments

-I am especially concerned about sustaining the sensitive, rare, and endangered species, desert tortoise, desert bighorn, and the several rodents and reptiles.

-Valuable wildlife populations in all areas should be protected from ORVs. They (the wildlife) were there first, long before the advent of man and ORVs.

-One of the high spots of my family's desert experiences has been the sighting of a large desert tortoise ambling through the cactus. We shudder to think what's going to happen to them if your Balanced Alternative prevails. Under the Balanced Alternative, the desert tortoise would receive severe negative impacts to high sensitivity habitat, with extirpation predicted in three or four major crucial habitat areas.

-I enjoyed the Desert Tortoise Preserve and saw quite a few tortoises, but I was dismayed by the gunshot damage and the vehicle tracks across the defenseless tortoise burrows.

-All of the 37 species in the Draft that are rare or endangered or sensitive should be protected as much as possible, and habitat management plans should be instituted for all these species.

-Several amphibians and reptiles will face severe negative impacts under the Balanced and Use alternatives.

-As it stands now, the Plan will have disastrous impacts on many animal species; among them six species of amphibians; 23 species of hawks, eagles, and falcons; two species of pupfish; the desert bighorn; and the Mohave squirrel.

-Close work with California Fish and Game and Parks departments will make the best use of resources.

-The BLM must include an active wildlife management program which insures the conservation of all species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and other animals and plants and their habitats in the desert.

-There should be ACECs to protect tortoise also -- in Ivanpah Valley, east San Bernardino County, Fenner-Chemehuevi valleys, Chuckwalla, and Riverside County east of Palm Springs.

-We must give consideration not just to public surveys but also to future generations whose voice is not yet heard.

-Pronghorn should be reintroduced.

-The BLM should take the ecosystem approach to managing wildlife, using the desert tortoise as an indicator species for habitat condition in many lower elevation valleys and slopes.

#### Organizations Favoring Protection of Tortoise and Other Important Species

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists  
Bay Area Turtle & Tortoise Society  
Davis Audubon Society  
Desert Fishes Council  
Educational Division of the Los Angeles County Museum  
City of Fresno Parks & Recreation Department  
Earth Watch Club (Pierce College Conservation Club)  
The Endangered Species Committee of California  
Kern County Fish and Game Protection Association  
The Nature Conservancy - California Field Office  
The Nature Conservancy - National Office, Arlington, Va.  
Palo Verde Valley Rod & Gun Club  
Santa Cruz Museum Association  
Sea and Sage Branch of National Audubon Society  
Sportsmen's Council of Central California  
The Wildlife Society  
Golden Valley Ecological Society

Friends of the Earth  
The Desert Tortoise Council - Whittier

DO NOT FAVOR PROTECTION OF TORTOISES, OTHER IMPORTANT SPECIES

Representative Comments

-The turtles are still there (with the off-road riders) with no harm at all coming to them.

-Over past years, as an off-road enthusiast, I have seen many of these tortoises, and according to your numbers they are in no way an endangered species.

-I believe after this many years we can cohabit with the desert tortoise and other desert wildlife. We've been doing it for 20 years already

-I feel all wildlife should be open to hunt during seasons, including bighorn sheep, deer, mountain lion and other game.

WILDLIFE MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

-The desert wildlife can be used in a consumptive manner as a renewable resource. Upland game hunting should be continued and managed as a renewable resource.

-Elimination of livestock grazing and control of wild horse/burro population by issuance of trapping/hunting permits should quickly improve the wildlife picture.

-A five-mile buffer zone is needed around the Desert Tortoise Natural Area.

12. LAND TENURE ADJUSTMENT

Two main subjects of concern were experienced by commenters who addressed this topic. One was the fear that the large amount of land acquisition proposed by land tenure adjustment programs will occur without adequate consideration for private landowner property rights. The second was that such a program of exchange and consolidation of ownership is essential to the management of sensitive natural and cultural resources, but that it does not appear to be well defined or feasible.

There were several comments which expressed uneasiness about the program's effects on taxpayers and landowners. Several commenters urged that the explanation of the program be expanded to specify the methods of acquisition, fearing that "strong-armed" tactics of conversion are planned. Some comments called for a detailed analysis of the program's potential to reduce a private landowner's property value, access, development opportunities, and other private landowner rights. Impacts to state and local revenue bases should be examined. Several letters expressed reservation about the large cost implied by such a program and asked for detail in the element.



Discussing this cost, some commenters argued that long-term benefits which would accrue from the protection and maintenance of resource values under this program would far outweigh the short-term costs of acquisitions. Noting that government land exchange programs are typically very slow, some urged that a consolidation program be accelerated to forestall further environmental deterioration resulting from the dispersment of lands. The dispersion of the Southern Pacific Railroad "checkerboard" lands and their contribution to management problems was often mentioned.

Other concerns: reactivating the Small Tracts Program or some small-scale land sale, lease, or trade of Federal lands; exchanging lands of high resource value with other responsible management agencies, e.g., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the need for community input into the disposition of nearby lands; the need to consider present and future needs of the military in land-exchange programs; the need to discuss and define precisely the status of lands now under mineral patent along with existing rights of private owners of mineral resources (including their right to access); and the effect of the program on access and leasability of lands with potential oil, gas, and geothermal resources.

#### FAVOR PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE, LAND TENURE ADJUSTMENT

##### Representative Comments

-Highly important because private land is so scarce in capitalistic countries it may take a century or two to develop a proper land ethic.

-I favor the Land Tenure Adjustment Element in the Protection Alternative.

-If used to acquire more mass area not in the populated areas, it would be to the benefit of the users.

-Bureaucracy needs to be controlled. Accelerate land exchange to consolidate public land holdings into more easily administered areas.

-The government should definitely buy back the land to be included in the wilderness areas. Future sales should be monitored closely.

##### Organizations Favoring Protection Alternative, Land Tenure Adjustment

Educational Division of the Los Angeles County Museum  
Animal Protection Institute of America

#### FAVOR BALANCED ALTERNATIVE, LAND TENURE ADJUSTMENT

##### Representative Comments

-Provides more options for diversified land use than any other alternative. Some land can still go into private hands. The government need not acquire all the land, but rather could allow for land use planning.

-How about the current needs and use by the military? Are some areas ready for conservation emphasis?

Organizations Favoring Balanced Alternative, Land Tenure Adjustment

Northwest Road and Trail Association

FAVOR USE ALTERNATIVE, LAND TENURE ADJUSTMENT

Representative Comment

-Conflicts can be avoided by purchase or exchange. Disposal of isolated tracts which cannot be managed and eliminating checkerboard railroad ownership through exchanges would be beneficial to land management.

Organizations Favoring Use Alternative, Land Tenure Adjustment

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies

IMPLEMENT UNDER PROTECTION OR USE APPROACHES

-Page 159, Approach 3: Acquire lands which could be more beneficially maintained under BLM control. What method will be used to obtain these lands? Concerned because of Anza Borrego Desert incident where letters were written to absent landowners telling them their property was inaccessible and then buying it . . . Explain how you will acquire this land.

-Land Tenure Adjustment Element should be implemented using the criteria of Resource Use Areas (pg. 159).

-BLM should acquire all checkerboard squares and have a contiguous desert.

AGAINST PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE, LAND TENURE ADJUSTMENT

Representative Comments

-Under Protection Alternative the BLM would acquire most of the riding motorized vehicle area.

-No Protection Alternative.

EXCHANGING/ACQUIRING LANDS SHOULD CONSIDER THE PRIVATE OWNERS

-I don't believe the BLM should acquire any land against the will of the people involved.

-It is recommended that there be land exchange to facilitate management by BLM and other agencies. Exchanges should be based on the willingness of the property owners to negotiate.

-A program of active encouragement of land exchange should be followed when the land to be exchanged has been carefully evaluated as of low value and is in an area near existing population centers.

-In very drastic cases where protection of resources, public health and safety, and/or services such as access make it mandatory to acquire land, then the process of condemnation should be utilized as a last resort.

MAINTAIN BLM MANAGEMENT OF SENSITIVE AREAS (INCLUDING WILDERNESS AND HABITAT AREAS)

#### Representative Comments

-Recommend section trades to consolidate BLM holdings in sensitive areas wherever possible.

-No lands should be acquired for ORV open areas. No lands containing habitat of endangered or threatened species should be disposed of.

-Priority must be given to acquisition of sensitive land in ACECs and to acquisition of isolated parcels that interrupt BLM Protection and Management.

#### Organizations Favoring Maintaining BLM Management of Sensitive Areas Including Wilderness and Habitat Areas

California Wilderness Coalition  
The Wildlife Society

### 13. AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Many letters and statements on this topic disputed BLM's application of the congressionally mandated "Area of Critical Environmental Concern" concept. Management was accused of defying the intent of the legislation both by a too liberal and a too conservative interpretation of ACEC criteria.

A number of commenters called for all 240 ACECs originally proposed by resource staff to be mapped, individually described, and presented to the public with rationales for rejection or inclusion stated and documented. Some commenters said that all 240 ACECs should be recommended for designation unless compelling reasons exist otherwise.

The Audubon Society proposal placed great emphasis on the ACEC concept: A desert-wide multiple-use management (not multiple-use classes) could be enhanced by a system of ACECs. Specific locations were recommended.

Other commenters found some of the 50 ACECs proposed in the Draft alternatives to be lacking the proper "significance" and "critical" criteria for designation. Concerns about property owners' rights within ACEC areas were expressed. The National Outdoor Coalition Alternative recommended 22

ACECs of the 50 proposed in the BLM Alternatives; some of these are reduced in size from the BLM proposal.

Along with numerous concerns on specific ACEC sites, other issues identified included: need for more extensive mineral potential information before ACEC official designation; the creation of "natural hazard" ACECs; the impacts of gem collecting or rockhounding on ACEC values; and the need for buffer zones around ACECs to protect them against the effects of the surrounding multiple-use class.

#### INCLUDE MORE ACECs THAN PROPOSED

##### Representative Comments

-The rejection of over half of the proposed ACECs before public comment was received and without detailed explanation is not an acceptable decision.

-I insist that the BLM include for public review a description of all 240 ACECs as proposed by BLM Resource Staff.

-Many more revisions should be made, including the mapping, describing, and availability for public evaluation of all 240 original ACECs.

-It appears the BLM has given up hope of protecting 115 sites. A good proportion of these are pictograph and petroglyph sites. These sites should be photographed and documented. Photographs and documentation can be saved and published after the vandals destroy the pictographs and petroglyphs, which they certainly will do.

-The number of ACECs should not be fixed. The numbers and sizes of ACECs should respond to the different mix of classes in the Plan alternative. The criteria of protectability is looking at the issue backward. A management commitment that is practical now does not consider the long-range future.

-The staff should reassess the 240 ACECs and expand back toward the original goal of management of these areas.

-There should be adequate documentation and justification for the exclusion of any ACEC.

##### Organizations Favoring Including More ACECs Than Proposed

Archaeological Survey Association of Southern California  
California Wilderness Coalition  
Committee for Green Foothills (Palo Alto)  
Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk  
El Dorado Audubon Society  
Friends of the Earth  
Friends of Wildlife  
Humane Civic Association  
Madrone Audubon Society, Inc.



Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society  
Natural History Museum, Balboa Park  
Sea and Sage Branch of National Audubon Society  
Riverside Alliance for Survival  
Riverside Audubon Society  
Society for California Archaeology  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club (Ventura)  
Desert Fishes Council  
The California Native Plant Society  
University of California, Santa Cruz, Campus Community Group  
Santa Cruz Museum Association  
The Desert Protective Council  
The Whittier Audubon Society  
The Wilderness Society  
Riverside Archaeological Society

AGREE WITH ACECS AS PRESENTED IN PLAN

#### Representative Comments

- Concur with draft conclusions, pp. 165-170. Large increase in funding is absolutely necessary if the "General Management Requirements" are to be met.
- They are a necessary part of the protective ideal.
- A good point of the ACECs is the fact that they do not vary by alternative. All alternatives have the same ACECs with the same objectives and locations and areas of coverage.
- I agree that there are areas which need separate and different management . . . many areas within the CDCA need extra protection.
- Their management may be the model for future wilderness area management.
- We approve of singling out ACECs; however, we are concerned that the focus of attention is too narrow.
- The protection of an exceptional area depends on the preservation of the larger environment in which it exists.
- Funding needed in areas of on-ground surveillance, acquisition of private holdings, and increases in interpretive programs.

#### Organizations Agreeing With ACECs as Presented in Plan

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies

## FAVOR PROTECTION OF ACECS

### Representative Comments

-Recommend these be given strong protection. Take measures needed to protect against vandalism. This is a weak area where much potential for abuse exists.

-I fully agree with the concept of protecting areas of special ecological or historical concern, but we will not allow ourselves to be herded into small "open" compounds.

-With increased use and consumption favored in the desert by the Use Alternative, the need for protection through enforcement will also increase.

-This is one area where "designated roads" type of control is desirable. These are unique areas and should be protected for future generations to enjoy.

-We do recognize the need for reasonable balance of human needs vs. environmental needs in order to obtain a fair compromise.

-We petition the BLM to greatly increase the number of designated ACECs to protect wildlife special habitat areas and Native American values.

-Top priority should be given to the protection and management of these areas as required by law (FLPMA sec. 202 [c] [3]).

-Use environmental education and interpretive programs; promote self-control and make policing less necessary to protect these areas.

-Control vehicular use. Close areas to motorized vehicles and restrict "ways." Many plants thrive in the desert in very peculiar places; they do not transplant well. They must be protected where they live; no collecting.

### Organizations Favoring Protection of ACECS

Educational Division of the Los Angeles County Museum  
Kern County Fish and Game Protection Association  
National Audubon Society  
Conejo Audubon Society  
Sportsmen's Council of Southern California  
Animal Protection Institute of America

## 14. IMPLEMENTATION

The major criticism of the implementation proposals in the Draft Plan was that they lacked specific detail. Several commenters called for detailed discussions of program priorities and scheduling, staffing levels, and the amount of funding needed to implement vs. the amount likely to be appropriated by an economy-minded Congress. Because of these uncertainties,

the feasibility of the CDCA Plan implementation was suspect, in the view of many commenters. Some commenters urged that this uncertainty be reflected in the EIS through the evaluation of alternative implementation assumptions. Also, since several commenters believed that the cost of implementing each of the Plan alternatives would be substantially different, this lack of cost comparison was considered an omission of a major evaluation tool.

The seven-year period allotted for the designation of roads and ways was the most criticized feature of the proposed implementation. Many commenters felt that too much adverse environmental damage would occur during that period. Others felt that the user public had been confused about desert access into the ACECs and that the Plan had a responsibility to immediately identify access, especially in Class I Areas.

The "Enforcement vs. Education" debate was the subject of many comments. Some urged that the present ranger force be substantially increased and its citation authority expanded; Plan actions would be ineffective otherwise. Others felt that the vast size of the desert and the nature of motorized vehicle activity which occurs there made complete reliance on enforcement foolish. An education-centered approach using the interpretive specialists was recommended.

A number of commenters recommended the establishment of an independent implementation review committee which should be composed of, variously, resource scientists with desert expertise or desert users or representatives from all special groups.

Other comments: Several commenters felt BLM personnel policies did not encourage the building of a professional resource management staff. A number of commenters addressed the matter of a professional resource management staff and, in particular, advised retaining the Desert Plan Staff for continued inventory and monitoring. Some commenters cited the lack of governmental coordination in the planning process and concern about future efforts in this area. Concerns were expressed about too much managerial discretion allowed by implementation proposals. Support was given to the proposed McCain Valley addition to the CDCA.

#### FAVOR PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE, IMPLEMENTATION

##### Representative Comments

-It appears to us that implementation requires the establishment of the Protection Alternative. The original thinking and mandates of Congress and preceding Chief Executives have been consistently toward the protection of Federal lands and toward natural use of public lands.

-The implementation should be centered around Point 4, Environmental Awareness. This will minimize need of patrols in the desert.

## Organizations Favoring Protection Alternative, Implementation

Bay Area Turtle & Tortoise Society (Berkeley)  
Animal Protection Institute of America

### PATROLLING AND POLICING

#### Representative Comments

-The use of volunteer help is fine as far as it goes, but in the long run the only sound way to adequately protect the public land is to increase your ranger force.

-Volunteer resident caretakers would be beneficial and I think the task would hold great appeal for retirees and/or people who enjoy the outdoors.

-Implementation of the Plan will require an extensive and intensive patrol program by the Bureau and other appropriate managing agencies.

-Recent history shows that Congress does not allocate enough funds to properly staff public areas. BLM will certainly not get enough rangers to patrol the CDCA.

-As far as individuals are concerned, I feel that many will continue to use the desert as they have previously without being aware they may be in a restricted area.

-I believe that mineral exploration should be treated with an individual status in this section.

-A centralized desert-wide staff of resource specialists should be permanently established in the CDCA and given review authority over resource decisions by BLM management.

-The Plan should be managed so it is self-supporting. Charge user fees, lease energy resources, sell minerals to private developers, exchange rather than buy land.

-Also the new ORV rules should be put into immediate use as in the designation of roads and ways, since the ORVs can create many new roads in seven years.

-There is need for a research center and retention of a BLM resource staff following Plan implementation.

-A Desert Planning Staff should be retained at a central location to guide future management decisions and to interpret, analyze, and utilize the massive amount of data collected during the inventory phase of the Desert Plan.



## Organizations Making Patrolling and Policing Comment

The Desert Tortoise Council - Whittier

### COMMENTS ON ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMENDATIONS

-Essential personnel mobility (p. 171) is not in the best interest of resource conservation. Staff must be committed to Plan goals and objectives, not their own specific resources.

-Agree with proposed organizational structure, staffing, and supplemental volunteers.

-Education will at best solve only 80 percent of the problem; 20 percent of users, even with education, will be too selfish to avoid damage and vandalism.

## Organizations Making Comments On Advisory Committee Recommendations

Kern County Fish and Game Protection Association  
Sportsmen's Council of Central California

### CONCERNS ABOUT TIME AND MONEY

#### Representative Comments

-I believe a major problem with the plan is that the timetable is unrealistic. A major portion of important wildlife areas will be lost before a California Desert Plan is implemented.

-The big question here is the adequacy of manpower and money to perform the jobs of implementation, management, and monitoring.

-No substantial budgetary increases? Who are you trying to fool with such nonsense? These steps are not only ridiculous, their intent is questionable.

-Cultivate the patronage of influential congressmen who can get you the money you need to do the job the Organic Act requires you to do.

-With all four alternatives, there should also be the cost of each of them considered.

-Too vague on implementation dates and details.

-The sooner the Plan could be enforced the better it would be for the ecosystem, but it will not be fully implemented for 20 years.

## Organizations Expressing Concerns About Time and Money

Educational Division of the Los Angeles County Museum  
National Audubon Society

Conejo Valley Audubon Society  
National Resource Defense Council Inc.  
Riverside Alliance for Survival  
Riverside Audubon Society  
Southern California Academy of Sciences  
The Wildlife Society

#### SUPPORTING COMMENTS ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION

##### Representative Comments

- The approach seems unwieldy, but in a democracy obviously the way to go.
- We agree . . . qualified staff, career incentives, volunteer assistance, and all (pp. 165-170).
- Your implementation structure is reasonable, and it appears that the BLM will maintain a management of the area with economy.

##### Organizations Making Supporting Comments About Implementation

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
Desert Fishes Council

#### 15. VEGETATION

Several commenters thought that desert vegetation was treated in the Draft Plan alternatives as a commodity -- "something to eat" -- rather than exploring fully its aesthetic, scientific, ecological, and recreational values. The creation of a vegetation or "botanical resources" element, or vegetation-soils element, was urged to discuss plant ecology, as well as rare, threatened, or endangered plant species, unique plant assemblages, plant harvesting, and other botanical concerns. This should be a "resource-based" rather than a "use-based" element which covers matters such as livestock grazing, several commenters believed.

Arguments were presented both supporting and opposing whole plant or plant-part harvesting for ornamental and other purposes.

The preservation of rare, threatened, or endangered plant species was urged, not only to comply with legal mandates, but also to maintain genetic stocks which may prove to be valuable to future generations. Commenters cautioned that biologists may too easily classify a plant as a subspecies; these subspecies should not be awarded the protection of the Endangered Species Act. Protection of these species sometimes was overdone, some believed.

Concern about the proliferation of filaree and tamarisk ("the plant burro"), the cultivation of jojoba beans, and desert agriculture in general were among other subjects discussed.

## PLAN NEEDS A VEGETATION ELEMENT

A vegetation element should be developed that bases use of vegetation on its limitations and sensitivity to these uses. Rare or endangered plants and unique plant assemblages should be given special management attention in this element.

-A "vegetation/soils" element should be added.

-It's impossible to separate wildlife from their support vegetation. The Plan can never realistically be considered complete until this item is properly addressed.

-Review all vegetative data and develop a plan for vegetation comparable to the other plans -- such as wildlife -- and wild horses and burros.

-Give fuller consideration to the desert flora. Discussing vegetation only in terms of its grazing potential simply is not adequate.

### Organizations Favoring Adding a Vegetation Element

California Wilderness Coalition  
Citizens for a Mojave National Park  
Kingston Range Resource Survey  
Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society  
Natural Resource Defense Council Inc.  
Riverside Audubon Society  
UCSC Campus Community Group  
Sierra Club  
Whittier Audubon Society  
Desert Fishes Council  
The Wildlife Society  
The Desert Protective Council  
The Wilderness Society

## FAVOR PROTECTING VEGETATION

-Riparian vegetation should always be protected on BLM public lands.

-No harvesting of native plants. Areas like Cima Dome which combine unique geological and vegetative qualities should have maximum protection.

-No artificial harvesting of any of the native flora should be allowed anywhere within the entire CDCA.

-We need to protect all of the known rare, threatened, and endangered species registered or those proposed to be registered.

-Sheep should be kept out of regions where plants are flowering until these plants have had a chance to reseed.

### Organizations In Favor of Protecting Vegetation

Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society  
Desomount Club

#### COMMENTS ON JOJOBA AND OTHER AGRICULTURE

- . . . Want Plan amended to include commercial development of jojoba, guayule, and other arid crops.

- Enactment of any program to control use of lands within the CDCA which does not include measures providing for acquisition and use or access for commercial agricultural purposes would have an adverse impact and not serve the national interest.

- Some desert lands are suitable for farming.

- If enough BLM land can be made available for jojoba, the United States could be a net exporter.

- The plants (jojoba and guayule) under consideration are native or adaptable to regions in the CDCA. Some of these regions are now being developed or planned for future commercial plantings.

- Action should be taken to incorporate such amendments as are necessary to eliminate any adverse impact on the acquisition and use or access to lands suited for agricultural development.

- We recommend that some CDCA land be made available for jojoba production.

- To the extent that jojoba oil is used for lubrication applications, it will be of national importance and should be considered in the list of important desert commodities.

### Organizations Making Comments on Jojoba and Other Agriculture

Jojoba Enterprises  
Jojoba World Trade Association

#### MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS ON VEGETATION

- Desert vegetation is a significant resource and a source of enjoyment for many users. From my standpoint, desert vegetation is probably more significant than desert wildlife.

- ORVs, wild burros, and livestock grazing will damage vegetation under all alternatives, but less so under the Protection Alternative.

- Restore the native vegetation to pre-grazing standards.



-The majority of the wonder drugs or medicine were derived from or first found in plants -- often obscure plants . . . To lose a plant species may delay the treatment of today's incurable diseases.

-I take a dim view of commenting on plants as though every one had to be eaten. Plants are essential in their own right and need to be maintained.

-Harvesting of desert plants (other than certain parts) should not be allowed. Especially the taking of Mojave yuccas.

-Management plan should include an active program to eradicate tamarisk and reestablish native grasses and plants.

-Many people are dependent on yucca harvesting and valuable products derived from it. If the Proposed Plan alters yucca harvesting procedures, we strongly request a meeting before September 30, 1980.

-Considering all the area for yucca growth, the acreage used for harvesting each year would be at most 1 acre per 1,000; a very slight impact.

-The tamarisk is becoming a "plant burro" in the desert.

## 16. MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

A number of comments did not fit under the topics selected for this summary. Among these are general statements about the proper human relationship to the desert. A gamut of philosophies was expressed, ranging from "the desert must be protected for future generations" to "the desert must be used or it has no value."

A number of comments recommended that resources or activities either be omitted from the Plan/EIS document, be treated briefly or be given more emphasis. A number of commenters felt that military activities or national security, in general, had not been given adequate consideration. Agriculture, and soil, air, and water also were recommended for more treatment, perhaps at the Element level.

While some praised the comprehensiveness and the presentation of the document, several felt that it was too long and too confusingly presented. The large volume of material and the complexity of the proposals were noted by several commenters who urged that the public review period be extended for that reason.

The proper role of the Bureau of Land Management, and government in general, was the topic of some letters. Some said that the Bureau was too reticent in assuming active resource management responsibilities and that it could not erase its "Bureau of Livestock and Mining" image. Others saw the actions proposed in the Plan alternatives as disturbing omens of another large and watchful government bureaucracy.

Comments made about the Fieldscope, Gallop, and SRI International public opinion polls were numerous. They were often cited as justification for a more protective management stance. Conversely, some commenters felt that bias was built into poll questions and that questions of this general nature could be contrived to produce any desired results--therefore, little weight should be given to them.

### DRAFT TOO LONG TO READ/UNDERSTAND

-I have studied the Plan for several hours but cannot afford the week's time it would take me to study it completely.

-The document is so voluminous and wordy that I have not enough time to give it fair study.

-Plan's too lengthy and clumsy for public review -- abbreviated version would have been more suitable and less costly to distribute.

-Yesterday I received from you an immense and expensive survey with which I am powerless to cope.

-As a document for public review, it is 400 pages too long.

#### EXTENSION OF TIME NEEDED FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

-I urge that the public be given more time for review of the BLM's management plan.

-It was very difficult to digest this document. I feel the time given the public to comment was too short.

-I would appreciate it if the comment period on the Desert Plan could be extended 30 days.

-Please extend the review period for the Draft.

-I request a continuance of the public hearings so that I may complete my studies of these documents and respond intelligently.

-The Blythe Chamber of Commerce feels that the public has been given insufficient time to respond to this document which required two years to develop.

#### Organizations Asking Extension of Time For Public Review

American Motorcycle Association  
California Wilderness Coalition  
Desert Fishes Council  
Indio Chamber of Commerce  
Lake Alamo Audubon Society  
Mt. Shasta Audubon Society  
National Audubon Society  
Sea and Sage Branch of the National Audubon Society  
Sierra Club (Ventura)  
Southern California Academy of Sciences  
The Desert Protective Council

#### DESIRE FOR DESERT PROTECTION

-Please resist the pressure from short-term profits and instead preserve as much desert as possible for my child and her children.

-Please give this fragile ecosystem as much protection as possible.

-Please resist the pressure groups who would cause the environmental quality to decline and who will diminish God-given national treasure.

-The desert is fragile and once it is damaged there is no going back. You have this land, and I hope you will hold it in trust for future generations.

-I believe in preserving God's natural resources and all His creatures and plants who inhabit it.

-Need to protect the fragile desert environment. Future generations will need the peace, beauty, and tranquility of the deserts.

#### Organizations Desiring Desert Protection

Marin Audubon Society

#### DRAFT WAS WELL DONE

-I hope I've made you realize that there is at least one person who knows the impossibility of what you did and commend you for your efforts.

-The attempt to present a balanced view of possible alternatives--and your success in the task--are grounds for congratulations.

-The draft is a massive and very impressive work. In the main, the Draft seems to speak to the many problems quite well.

-You are to be complimented on the completeness of the Draft Plan, especially considering the short time allowed.

#### DISAPPROVE OF DRAFT PLAN

-As one who has known and loved the desert for some 40 years, I am deeply disappointed in the proposed BLM Plan.

-The California Desert Plan was the new BLM's best chance to prove itself. Unfortunately you have failed.

-The Desert Plan and Environmental Statement is seriously flawed, and I don't approve of the Plan.

-The Draft does not identify a "preferred alternative" plan.

-....I am shattered....looks as if you are cutting out and cutting up some 23 million acres of precious land.

-A chance to plan for future generations; however, it falls short in many ways of preserving our desert unspoiled.

-I think it was a waste of money to print and mail these Desert Plans.

#### Organizations Disapproving Draft Plan

Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Lake  
Friends of the Earth  
National Resource Defense Council, Inc.  
Marin Audubon Society  
Southern California Academy of Sciences



## ALTERNATIVES/DRAFT WERE BIASED

-My general impression of the Draft is that it is a biased document. The overall thrust is to downplay and subtly discourage use of desert resources.

The inherent attitude in the Draft Desert Plan is to bow to the pressure of those who want to build, extend grazing, ride OVRs, and indiscriminately track over the terrain.

-The Draft Plan seems inordinately weak and prejudiced in favor of exploitation.

-I feel the whole Plan is slanted to the side of people who will probably never use the desert.

-Your Desert Use Plan is full of biased predisposed opinions that sound more like a scenario for the Sierra Club.

-As I look at the Plan, the weight seems to be more in terms of use than sustained yield and preservation of quality.

-It looks like the Draft Desert Plan and EIS were deliberately designed to promote the miners, ORVs, ranchers, developers, and energy industries.

## Organizations Who Thought Alternatives/Draft Were Biased

Friends of the Earth

## CRITICISM OF BLM

-The BLM presently has the reputation as the slowest governmental agency to deal with, at least in Inyo County.

-Abolish the BLM

BLM's cooperation with local governments has been absolutely nil.

-BLM has a poor record of enforcing and looking after the desert.

-BLM deliberately manipulated facts and figures in this Draft.

-Isn't it true that the government is just using the BLM to create a large police force?

## AGAINST GOVERNMENTAL INTERVENTION

-I love the desert just the way it is. The more the government regulates and interfere with our way of life, the more we suffer.

-Leave the desert alone. It will be here when the rest of us are long gone.

-We don't want any restrictions here in the desert.

-There is no way the government can protect or run the desert. If they think they can, then they've never been out in the desert.

-The one thing that I want to impress upon the BLM is that they are invading our territory, and we are not going to tolerate it.

-It is just sickening that the government is going to take our desert pleasure away from us.

#### FAVOR ECOSYSTEM APPROACH

-The planning units seem arbitrary and illogical. The Desert Plan should be divided into ecosystems based on floral and faunal species, terrain types, draining regions, etc.

-BLM should use the ecosystem approach to managing wildlife.

-Polygons should have been determined from following natural divisions such as soil and plant associations, ecosystems, and habitats.

-I support the idea of having desert zoning based on natural and ecological boundaries, rather than on roads, highways, and section lines.

-A central management philosophy should approach the desert from the ecosystem concept.

#### Organizations Favoring Ecosystem Approach

Desert Fishes Council  
Friends of the Earth  
The Wildlife Society  
The Wildlife Society, Arizona Chapter

#### AGAINST DEVELOPMENT OF DESERT

- No use or development should be supported which endangers native desert wildlife, plant life, or natural beauty.

-I feel very strongly that as much of our California Desert needs to be protected from development as possible.

-I understand that commercial interests are putting pressure on BLM to allow increasing levels of mining, grazing, and ORV use. Don't give in to them.

-Vote against development of the desert.

-No development in the desert.

-Commercial and other selfish interests should not be allowed to exploit these desert lands and destroy them for all time.

-Urge BLM not to allow increased development. This generation must not be allowed to destroy the desert.

-Don't let the pressures of developmentalists let the quality of the desert disappear.

#### FAVOR DEVELOPMENT OF DESERT

-With proper use of the CDCA, America can take a giant step forward on its own planet and for its planet, man being the central concern and highest priority.

-I also recognize that the desert has many rich minerals and that the low cost of much desert land makes it attractive for other uses....

-There are many potential prospects for development of desert lands, and some were treated in the CDCA Plan alternatives, but the most important one -- agriculture -- was not even considered.

#### COMMENTS ON OPINION POLLS

-Proposed land use decisions by BLM do not respond to the public preference for desert protection, as proved by recent public surveys, and as such are unacceptable and undemocratic.

-It is our belief that the general public, particularly as it relates to the Gallup poll, is unfamiliar with the California Desert and the complexity of issues and the necessity for vehicle access associated with it.

-We were dismayed that no valid criticisms of the public-opinion polls were reflected in the use of these studies within the Draft document.

#### Organizations Making Comments on Opinion Polls

Zero Population Growth  
Desert Fishes Council  
Riverside Archaeological Society

#### FAVOR DESERT UTILIZATION

-Suggest rethinking of priorities, putting humans first when necessary to livelihood and when mining aids the national interests.

-God gave the Earth to Man to use.

-The desert should be utilized to its full capacity.

-We want to see this vast land left open to the multiple use and enjoyment of the rich resources that lie in this area.

Organizations Favoring Desert Utilization

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
Arizona State Association of 4-WD Clubs

COMMENTS ON SOIL, AIR, WATER

-Soil, Air, Water, etc., are not afforded their due consideration by being omitted as Elements.

-No consideration is given to development of desert areas into farmland by using irrigation techniques which have made former parts of the desert into some of the most productive farms in the world.

-Soils are the basic building block of the desert ecosystem upon which all vegetation, and in turn all wildlife, are dependent. The final adopted alternative shouldn't allow any degradation of desert soils.

-Maintain the present soil, air, and water quality and energetically pursue the improvement of all three areas where quality has declined.

-There are over 700 known springs in the Desert Conservation Area, only 6 were recommended as ACECs in the Protection Alternative.

-Plan does not adequately address air quality as a resource or area of impact.



## 17. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Comments which related to the environmental assessments of the actions of the Draft Plan alternatives in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) were few, compared to those which discussed Plan decisions. Those EIS-related comments were most often from government agencies, organizations, and special study groups.

A recurring criticism in these responses was that the nature and range of alternatives presented did not comply with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and subsequent Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines to "rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives." Several commenters described the range of alternatives as too few in number and constructed for a predetermined end, in violation of NEPA's intention.

Many commenters stated that the Protection Alternative failed to adequately protect the habitat of a number of officially listed wildlife species, thus making the range of alternatives illegal.

The "Affected Environment" of the EIS was criticized for its lack of descriptions of resources which would be in areas considered for site-specific management, i.e., grazing allotment, wilderness study areas, Motorized Vehicles open areas, etc. "The consequences of such proposed actions cannot be assessed or understood without specific description of the resources potentially affected."

Discussions of the resource impact assessments was extensive. Some commenters said that the presentation and content of the EIS failed to describe any connection between resource description and impact analysis, and the decisions of the alternatives.

They failed to perceive in the environmental analysis what was variously described as "resource capability units," "carrying capacities," "threshold standards," or other terms to describe resource sensitivity for impact. In addition, the EIS failed, in the view of some, to demonstrate that a cross-disciplinary approach to understanding the dynamics of the desert ecosystem and the human relationship to it had been established. Such a failure was evident in the lack of definition of such recurring terms as "sensitive," "significant," "appropriate," "reasonable," "feasible," or even "ORV."

The quality of data used was also discussed frequently. While some felt that basic resource data was good, it had been either ignored or too quickly assimilated by decisionmakers--an additional period of resource analysis was urged by some, for periods extending up to one year. Others felt that an uneven quantity and quality of data existed between disciplines and that a two percent sample of some CDCA resource bases was too small to extrapolate for meaningful desert-wide resource descriptions. An additional period of resource inventory was urged. Cultural resource and mineral and energy inventory needs were mentioned more frequently than others.

The methodology of analysis was also perceived to be uneven by some, ranging from "marginal" to "high" and based too extensively on professional judgment in the absence of critical studies. Some commenters felt that many specific assessments of resource impact were derived from broad generalizations which had poor supporting data.

Some reviewers demanded more references and citations of material in the document, and that BLM make them available if they were not readily obtainable.

The most-debated methodology approach was that of wildlife. All commenters who noted this approach condemned its inconsistency with other methodology approaches used, but differed on whether or not the wildlife approach was more appropriate. Those who opposed it urged "reasonable case" rather than the "worst case" assessment used by wildlife. Those who favored it said that the "absolute" impact assessment was the only one which provided a true picture of resource conditions and the "relative" assessment used elsewhere was masking the severe environmental decline allowed by the alternative plans.

Some commenters were concerned that the EIS assumption of full implementation of recommended Plan actions was unlikely in view of the past history of such projects. Thus it was advised, alternative levels of implementation should also be considered and related to impacts.

Several criticized the socioeconomic analysis of the EIS, urging a cost-benefit analysis which would weigh long-term and short-term benefits of Plan actions. Non-monetary scaling or quantified value could be assigned, some argued, to minerals, livestock, agriculture, solitude, scenic preservation, wildlife preservation, and other values.

Representative comments follow.

#### EIS CONTAINS INACCURACIES

##### Representative Comments

- While the text of the Plan indicates that "Perennial bunch grasses...have undergone severe declines in the past 100 years, the information in Table PE-13 indicates that almost all the proposed and existing allotments are in good or fair ecological condition.

- The fourth paragraph on "destruction of 370,000 tons of plant biomass" and the loss of 20,000 acres of unique plants is pure nonsense. What is this based on? (p. 415)

- It must be emphasized that the Draft EIS generally understates the negative resource impacts of the alternatives.

- The EIS is very ambiguous and contradictory, many unpublished studies have been alluded to with no scientific backing.

- The EIS states that "the small miner life style would be nearly eliminated from the CDCA under the Protection Alternative. There is no substantiation of this judgment, which seems both highly speculative and in basic error.

- The proposed Mojave National Park seems a good idea but the EIS projection of visitors seems quite low considering the heavy use of nearby Death Valley Monument.

- Projected impacts of livestock grazing on wildlife are greatly exaggerated and are not borne out by the past experience of many years.

- Table PE-4 unreasonably shows the Protection Alternative as having negative impacts on general recreation and motorized vehicle access.

- In all these sections, the impacts of mineral exploration and development are exaggerated...words "could" and "potential" notwithstanding. I do not believe that mineral exploration represents irretrievable damage to the environment. (416-417)

- It is not possible from data available in the Plan, to assess cumulative impacts for each alternative. There is no justification for the "no significant" impact ratings assigned to mining on grazing wilderness, or general recreation in Table PE-10.

- In Table PE-5, wilderness status should be shown as having a highly positive impact on water, soil, and vegetation resources, rather than "no significant impact."

- We find no scientific study supporting the premise that there has been continuous overgrazing of the desert.

- Oil and gas leasing does not threaten 37 percent of the tortoises and 87 percent of the scarab beetles. (p.415)

- The unique, rare, endangered, etc. plants that could or may be impacted in reality would not be affected. (p. 299)

- EIS grossly underestimates the economic benefits creation of a Mojave National Park would have for the local economy.

- The EIS incorrectly assumes that the impacts from grazing will continue to occur at the level identified, and that additional range improvements and new allotments will add more, largely unspecified impacts.

- Correct the inconsistency between conflict resolution criteria and impacts of mining to water in the EIS.

- ORV impacts may not be immense but they most definitely should be shown as being negative on 232.

- The section dealing with the impacts by vehicles on soil erosion and wildlife shown on pages 233-235 can't be documented or substantiated.

#### Organizations Commenting That EIS Contains Inaccuracies

National Resource Defense Council, Inc.  
Sierra Club  
El Dorado Audubon Society  
National Outdoor Coalition

#### EIS IS LEGALLY DEFICIENT

##### Representative Comments

- The EIS does not meet the requirements of Sec. 101(B) of the National Environmental Policy Act.

- The EIS is inadequate in delineating the legal requirements of the BLM in the management of the public lands.

- The Desert Plan EIS isn't consistent in the holding of U.S. District Court in State of California vs. Bergland (USDC Eastern District of California 5-79-523-LKK Jan. 8, 1980) Part Two with wilderness and ACEC elements.

- Protection oriented classes, elements, and alternatives don't afford FLPMA's requirement of "maintenance of environmental quality." This deficiency is not dealt with adequately in the EIS.

- Presuming dunes, washes, and dry lake beds open to ORV use violates NEPA, as its impacts are nowhere addressed in the EIS.

- Development of the general Plan does not exempt BLM from doing complete surveys of all local areas...for presence or absence of sensitive cultural or natural resources before allowing any potentially harmful activity.

- It appears that the BLM has fallen incredibly short of meeting either the spirit or the letter of NEPA, FLPMA, CEQ regulations, several Executive Orders, and BLM's own administrative regulations and guidelines.

- The EIS does not conform to CEQ regulations as printed in the Federal Register on November 29, 1978.

- All of the Plan alternatives lean heavily on the designation of areas as open to ORV use without restriction. Yet the designation of such areas is



completely unjustified in the EIS in relation to compliance with the Executive Orders 11644 and 11989.

- Plan does not provide the means to avoid long-term and short-term adverse impacts or to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of riparian areas required by Executive Order 11990.

- The EIS isn't in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act or CEQ's regulations implementing NEPA - particularly with regard to resource impact analysis, nature and range of alternatives, and public participation provisions.

- I believe that the report and statement has inadequately analyzed the impact of polluted groundwater, and thus it does not satisfy its statutory obligations.

#### Organizations Commenting EIS Is Legally Deficient

Friends of the Earth  
National Audubon Society  
Conejo Audubon Society  
Sierra Club  
National Resource Defense Council, Inc.  
Wildlife Federation  
California Native Plant Society

#### ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS IS INADEQUATE

##### Representative Comments

- The Analyses of the environmental impacts of proposed grazing on many resources of the CDCA are inadequate.

- Throughout the EIS's discussion of cumulative impacts, broad generalizations are used to draw specific conclusions. We find such extremes to be highly unlikely, inflammatory, and speculative.

- The EIS does not adequately consider the benefits of the Park System alternatives or for that matter, Class C status.

- The discussion of the environmental impacts resulting from mining is contradictory and does not allow for an independent assessment of their cumulative effects under each Plan alternative.

- The EIS does not adequately assess the impacts of burro overpopulation.

- The impacts assessment for wilderness is totally inadequate as explained in the comments on the Wilderness Element.

- The problem of impact assessment specificity is integral to the impact assessment process. It is not proper to put off the job of analyzing impacts.

- The discussion of environmental impacts is inadequate and the cumulative impact assessments under the alternatives are internally contradictory.

- The assessments of impacts in the EIS are very insufficient (regarding grazing).

- One glaring failure of the Draft EIS is the absence of any specific impacts on an area-by-area basis.

- The Desert Plan and EIS is grossly inadequate in analyzing air quality impacts.

- The Draft Plan/EIS has serious weaknesses in the information on soil resources in the CDCA and inadequate assessment of the impacts of ORV use.

- Sensitive or threatened and endangered plants do not appear to receive adequate attention in either the Plan or EIS.

#### Organizations Commenting That Analysis of Impacts Is Inadequate

Sea and Sage Branch of the National Audubon Society  
National Resource Defense Council, Inc.  
Riverside Archaeological Society  
Sierra Club  
National Outdoor Coalition  
American Motorcycle Association

#### PARTS OF THE EIS WERE WELL DONE

- The EIS part of the Plan does a fairly good job of bringing out the fragile nature of the desert and how easy it is to disturb all of the things that have been going on there for a long time.

- The assessments are essentially accurate.

- In compiling the EIS the BLM seems to have identified the areas of concern to all and brought together all available scientific information about sensitive natural and cultural resources.

- The Impact Statement deals with area incidence in detail. This is well done.

- We commend the methodology of the assessment of cumulative impacts to wildlife and special habitat areas. This methodology allows an evaluation of the absolute impacts of each alternative rather than merely the relative

impacts, and should be followed in the assessment of impacts on other resources also.

## COMMENTS ON WILDLIFE ASSESSMENTS

### Representative Comments

- We consider the disclaimers regarding the validity of the wildlife assessments to be unjustified and indicative of either a misunderstanding of professional multiple-use management or reluctance to use it.

- Why was the assessment for wildlife done differently?

- Except for the wildlife impact assessment--the other impact assessments only consider relative impacts between Plan alternatives. Thus a reduced rate of decline of a resource is considered to be a positive impact of the Plan.

- The EIS should have been formulated on the basis that the wildlife sections were.

### Organizations Making Comments On Wildlife Assessments

The Wildlife Society  
Riverside Audubon Society  
Riverside Alliance for Survival

## EIS LACKS CRITICAL INFORMATION

### Representative Comments

- The Draft EIS fails to provide certain information, including basic resource data, which is relevant for grazing decision-making.

- (p. 410) "The displaced vehicle riders will go elsewhere." Well, looking at the map, where are they going to go?

- The EIS blatantly leaves out the fact that the 138 WSAs that have been looked at in the EIS were designated under the Wilderness Element as protected areas.

- The EIS should identify the existing structures within proposed corridors and the room remaining for future construction.

- A study of the economic impact on both industry and communities should be included in the EIS.





- The entire EIS is inadequate. The social data is less than adequate. The economic data is incomplete.

- The Draft EIS fails to explain how key features such as suitability of lands for grazing, carrying capacities, and stocking levels were derived.

- The EIS should disclose the amount of BLM funding and manpower that would be devoted to ORV recreation management under each of the alternatives.

- The main EIS does not contain enough information on the laws and policies governing the BLM in its administration of the CDCA.

- We request that the final EIS include maps of the existing roads and ways in 1972 and in 1977, for comparison.

- There is virtually no discussion of what is to prevent an ORV from veering off a "road or way" and driving across the desert.

- Under domestic livestock grazing and wild horses and burros, it should be pointed out that BLM is responsible for holding populations of these animals at levels prescribed by law.

- The EIS inadequately explains the criteria for omitting WSAs 305, 300, and 362.

- The analysis fails to state what are the long-term effects of polluted underground water (caused by mining operation).

- An EIS that cannot state the amount and extent of pollution cannot be correct in determining the environmental impact of such pollution.

- Need information on specific impacts of the trades on specific portions of land under Land Tenure Adjustment Element.

- In Draft EIS, many statements were not supported by assessment of mining impacts. No reference to studies to assess the impacts, or of the methodology assumptions or rationale used in determining mining impacts.

- The public needs to be informed of the legal constraints the BLM must apply to any alternative development.

- The Draft Plan does not explain whether or not mitigation can be accomplished nor does it provide information regarding how these negative impacts and the degradation of other Plan elements can be weighted against the benefits of mining.

- Need a detailed statement of economic impacts and implementation costs of land tenure adjustment.

- The EIS describes these areas as sensitive to impact. No documentation for management decisions to drop specific ACECs, even those with highest priority ratings, is given.

- The Plan and EIS should include a clear rationale for each decision to designate an ACEC and each decision not to designate an area recommended by resource staff for ACEC protection.

- Insufficient information in EIS on lands potentially valuable for oil and gas.

- The BLM assessments of impacts of withdrawal are further hampered by the lack of clarity as to the extent of mineral activities that occur in the L and M Class areas.

#### Organizations Commenting EIS Lacks Critical Information

National Resource Defense Council, Inc.  
UCSC Campus Community Group  
Friends of the Earth  
Citizens for a Mojave National Park  
Sierra Club  
Sea and Sage Branch of National Audubon Society  
American Motorcycle Association

#### MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS IS NEEDED IN EIS

##### Representative Comments

- The affected environment section of the EIS fails to describe resources which would be in areas considered for site-specific management, i.e. grazing allotments, WSAs.

- No assessment is made of potential environmental effects of perpetually existing ORV areas or creating new ones--or of changing the status from open to existing roads and ways.

- Clearly the cause and effect evaluations are limited to the availability of specific studies rather than an analytical framework of resource data.

- Little is said with respect to the adverse effect of the restriction of government land as it will affect adjacent and contiguous private lands.

- The EIS should include an assessment of management and resource efficiencies associated with National Park proposals and National Monument expansion.

- The EIS should include an honest assessment of the full range of impacts, all of which should be reflected in the final decision.

- One of the glaring failures of the EIS is the lack of detailed analysis tables for the Mineral Exploration and Development Element.

- Environmental impacts of specific proposals of Plan alternatives aren't included.

- Vegetative resources should be given element status and the EIS rewritten to reflect actual impacts of all alternatives on this resource.

- The EIS should include a cost effectiveness analysis using non-monetary scaling as well as quantitative measures.

#### Organizations Saying More Detailed Analysis Needed in EIS

National Resource Defense Fund, Inc.

Sierra Club

Riverside Audubon Society

Society for California Archaeology

The American Horse Protection Assoc., Inc.

#### EIS FAILS TO ADDRESS ALL IMPACTS

- The comparative analysis does not include the relative impacts of installing a 500-kv transmission line in an existing corridor containing only a buried pipeline. The Final Plan's Energy Element and EIS should be revised to indicate the best compatible mix of uses for future corridor expansions.

- The EIS fails to address impacts to Native American/Cultural Resources in Class I areas during the seven-year period allowed for road designation.

- The EIS also fails to assess indirect impacts to cultural resources as a result of the "boom-bust" cycle during construction of any type of energy facility identified in the Energy Element. Increased recreational use of proximate desert areas, particularly off-road vehicle use, by the influx of construction-related workers is a predictable indirect impact to cultural resources.

- The impact of new transmission line corridors through desert areas presently with limited or poor access is ignored in its relation to indirect impacts from increased vehicle-related activity.

- The Environmental Impact Statement should address the economic impacts on Caltrans which may be restricted by wilderness areas as to maintenance and construction materials sites.

- The EIS should address both the positive and negative impacts of both affirmative and negative decisions.

- The EIS fails to address impacts to Native American cultural resources.

- Draft EIS neglects to consider proposed effects on land and population.

- The Draft Plan and EIS do not include any mention of impacts of the different alternatives on plant and invertebrate species that are State or federally listed as endangered, threatened or rare. There is also no list of "sensitive."

- One-half million people in CDCA. Draft EIS does not address impacts on residents.

- The Draft Plan and EIS both fail to assess the impact the alternatives will have on existing and future solid waste and disposal needs of the desert communities.

- The potential for expansion of ORV use beyond open area boundaries and associated impacts should be included. Analysis of grazing impact thresholds aren't included.

- The Draft Plan EIS totally omits reference to adverse or beneficial effect of fire on the desert environment.

- EIS should show impact on residents of the Land Tenure Adjustment Element...should state Federal intentions toward each of "100 communities" in desert.

- BLM's Draft Plan/EIS does not discuss the impacts on mineral production that would derive specifically from establishment of wilderness areas or any specific land-use class.

#### Organizations Commenting EIS Fails To Address All Impacts

National Resource Defense Fund  
California Wilderness Coalition  
Sierra Club  
National Resource Defense Council, Inc.  
Friends of the Earth  
Citizens for a Mojave National Park  
National Outdoor Coalition  
Riverside Alliance for Survival

#### COMMENTS ON OTHER EIS DEFICIENCIES

##### Representative Comments

- The environmental consequences of designating or not designating each WSA are not described, making the EIS inadequate.



- I take issue with the statement concerning the difficulty of predicting specific impacts. This is ridiculous and an excuse for not doing the work required by NEPA process.

- Please provide me the "economic assessments" of the three alternatives as required by E.O. 12044 and regulations in 43 CFR Part 14.

- It is impossible to categorize impacts into social, economic, and environmental categories.

- The cumulative impacts of each alternative do not deal with the environment as a dynamic system in which the interrelationships between water, soil, plant life, and wildlife can be understood.

- The Draft EIS is inadequate because it fails to include at least one additional ORV use alternative adequate to protect and maintain the desert's environmental and cultural resources.

- The Plan EIS gives no consideration to private interspersed land and water for either livestock or nonlivestock values.

- Final EIS must do site-specific impact analysis.

- Find no attempt to justify the degree of planning and assessment required prior to initiating the various actions; nor to compensate for more substantial adverse impacts with more stringent measures.

- I disbelieve the number of suspected Indian burial sites/sensitive cultural spots named in your Table MV-1.

- It is an inadequate EIS.

- A section equivalent to the environmental consequences is needed for economic consequences.

- We find the EIS's treatment of these two issues (livestock grazing and wilderness) in particular to be seriously deficient.

- The degradation of wilderness values does not necessarily follow the No Action Alternative since there are currently existing programs of both SMARA and BLM review occurring.

- The EIS fails to describe resources which would be potentially affected by specific management plans for each site.

- Although ORVs suppress and eventually displace other forms of recreation, the EIS has failed to state these negative impacts.

- Conflict resolution criteria must be offered, and real alternatives which would minimize impacts to cultural resources must be considered in the EIS.

- The BLM Plan in no way mitigates the significant impacts it will create to socioeconomic values.
- We are concerned that the Final EIS will be perfunctory and unmanageable in nature, given the September deadline.
- The Plan does not consider the multiplier factor (3.51 employees) or military spending and presence in CDCA.
- In addition to a genuine "no grazing" alternative, the next version of this EIS must include alternatives which involve significantly different vegetative allocations in general and different levels of livestock use in particular.
- BLM is remiss by not realizing how much EIS functions as an educational tool and by not explaining the definition of multiple use.
- Along with the absence of soils, vegetation and water as distinct elements of the Draft Desert Plan, the absence of a seriously considered Air element is a primary deficiency of the Draft Desert Plan and EIS.
- The EIS is merely used to demonstrate various impacts associated with particular mixes of uses within each of the plans, not as a means of clearly assessing the impacts of alternatives.
- The refusal to deal straightforwardly with resource capabilities and limits in the structure of the Plan is carried over into the methodology of the EIS.
- Where the EIS does correctly relate intensive use with resource loss, significant impacts are identified. However, mitigation is not adequate.
- The EIS must show the anticipated impacts accruing from the seven-year "existing roads and ways" designation, and consider alternatives which might mitigate or reduce this impact.
- The Draft EIS is seriously deficient in not defining and assessing water and agriculture as resources.
- The method used to determine the endangered or threatened or sensitive species status of various habitats and animals is not necessarily the best way to do it.
- The EIS should include a description of air quality planning both in nonattainment areas and in attainment areas since both kinds of areas are present within the Desert Conservation Area and may affect the management alternatives.
- EIS should show impact on residents of the Land Tenure Adjustment Element ... should state Federal intentions toward each of "100 communities" in desert.

- BLM has created the need for a revised EIS or at least a supplement if the intent of NEPA to allow for a public review of a preferred alternative prior to the final EIS is to be followed.

- The only real quantitative data (p. 197) is from people not necessarily involved in the desert.

- There should be an economic impact statement presented and given the same importance as the EIS.

- Paleontological surveys ... should be part of the environmental impact reports and statements.

- I feel the Plan alternatives and EIS are deficient in three ways related to implementation.

- The present zoning as provided in the Draft EIS is unacceptable.

- We see no mention of the Tule Elk. We urge that the oversight be corrected in Final Plan/EIS.

#### Oranization Making Comments on Other EIS Deficiencies

National Resource Defense Fund  
Animal Protection Institute of America  
Friends of the Earth  
Sierra Club  
National Resource Defense Council, Inc.  
San Bernardino Audubon Sociocy  
The California Native Plant Society  
Committee for Green Foothills  
American Motorcycle Association  
Society for California Archaeology  
Desert Tortoise Council  
Riverside Alliance for Survival  
Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society





## APPENDIX II

### SUMMARY OF DECISIONS AND RESOURCE VALUES

## Table of Contents

### APPENDIX II

#### SUMMARY OF DECISIONS AND RESOURCE VALUES

| <u>Title</u>  |     | <u>Page</u> |
|---------------|-----|-------------|
| Introduction  |     | 119         |
| Planning Unit | 1.  | 121         |
|               | 2.  | 123         |
|               | 3.  | 125         |
|               | 4.  | 126         |
|               | 5.  | 128         |
|               | 6.  | 133         |
|               | 7.  | 139         |
|               | 8.  | 140         |
|               | 9.  | 134         |
|               | 10. | 145         |
|               | 11. | 151         |
|               | 12. | 152         |
|               | 13. | 157         |
|               | 14. | 158         |
|               | 15. | 160         |
|               | 16. | 165         |
|               | 17. | 166         |
|               | 18. | 173         |
|               | 19. | 177         |
|               | 20. | 181         |
|               | 21. | 185         |
|               | 22. | 186         |

| <u>Title</u>  |     | <u>Page</u> |
|---------------|-----|-------------|
| Planning Unit | 23. | 191         |
|               | 24. | 197         |
|               | 25. | 198         |
|               | 26. | 203         |
|               | 27. | 209         |
|               | 28. | 215         |
|               | 29. | 221         |
|               | 30. | 222         |
|               | 31. | 227         |
|               | 32. | 231         |
|               | 33. | 233         |
|               | 34. | 239         |
|               | 35. | 245         |
|               | 36. | 246         |
|               | 37. | 251         |
|               | 38. | 255         |
|               | 39. | 257         |
|               | 40. | 261         |
|               | 41. | 262         |
|               | 42. | 267         |
|               | 43. | 268         |
|               | 44. | 275         |
|               | 45. | 270         |
|               | 46. | 281         |
|               | 47. | 282         |
|               | 48. | 276         |

| <u>Title</u>   |     | <u>Page</u> |
|----------------|-----|-------------|
| Planning Units | 49. | 287         |
|                | 50. | 289         |
|                | 51. | 293         |
|                | 52. | 301         |
|                | 53. | 307         |
|                | 54. | 311         |
|                | 55. | 302         |
|                | 56. | 240         |
|                | 57. | 315         |
|                | 58. | 321         |
|                | 59. | 325         |
|                | 60. | 316         |
|                | 61. | 331         |
|                | 62. | 332         |
|                | 63. | 337         |
|                | 64. | 343         |
|                | 65. | 295         |
|                | 66. | 347         |
|                | 67. | 348         |
|                | 68. | 353         |
|                | 69. | 355         |
|                | 70. | 361         |
|                | 71. | 363         |
|                | 72. | 369         |
|                | 73. | 371         |
|                | 74. | 375         |



| <u>Title</u>   |      | <u>Page</u> |
|----------------|------|-------------|
| Planning Units | 75.  | 379         |
|                | 76.  | 383         |
|                | 77.  | 384         |
|                | 78.  | 389         |
|                | 79.  | 395         |
|                | 80.  | 399         |
|                | 81.  | 405         |
|                | 82.  | 409         |
|                | 83.  | 413         |
|                | 84.  | 390         |
|                | 85.  | 417         |
|                | 86.  | 421         |
|                | 87.  | 400         |
|                | 88.  | 423         |
|                | 89.  | 424         |
|                | 90.  | 429         |
|                | 91.  | 435         |
|                | 92.  | 436         |
|                | 93.  | 441         |
|                | 94.  | 445         |
|                | 95.  | 446         |
|                | 96.  | 451         |
|                | 97.  | 452         |
|                | 98.  | 457         |
|                | 99.  | 463         |
|                | 100. | 469         |

| <u>Title</u>   |      | <u>Page</u> |
|----------------|------|-------------|
| Planning Units | 101. | 473         |
|                | 102. | 479         |
|                | 103. | 483         |
|                | 104. | 485         |
|                | 105. | 489         |
|                | 106. | 493         |

## INTRODUCTION

This Appendix is a summary of major proposed planning actions, the rationale behind them, and brief accounts of the resource values that were considered. It is organized by the 106 Planning Units that were utilized in the development of the proposed Desert Plan. Planning Units are Sub-areas of the desert that were delineated to assist in resource data analysis and documentation.

For each Planning Unit there are seven different major proposed actions and nine categories of resource values described. The different proposed actions, and resource values discussed are as follows:

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class. Each Planning Unit, and, in some cases, sub-units within a Planning Unit, were all assigned one of four possible Multiple Use Classes. This section tells what the recommended Multiple-Use Class is, and why it is considered appropriate.

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. If an ACEC, or a portion of an ACEC is within a Planning Unit, it is described, with the management objective.

3. Wildlife Management. Some Planning Units will include special wildlife management plans, such as a Habitat Management Plan.

4. Grazing Allotments. This will indicate if there is all or part of a grazing allotment within a Planning Unit. Key features of grazing allotments will be described.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. If all or part of a wild horse and burro Herd Management Area is within a Planning Unit, it will be described along with the reason management is deemed necessary.

6. Utility Corridors. If a Planning Unit is crossed by a utility corridor, or if a utility corridor forms a boundary of a Planning Unit, it will be described here.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. Any exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines in any portion of a Planning Unit will be described along with the reasons for that exception.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. If a Planning Unit contains significant prehistoric or historic resources, a brief description will be given.

2. Native American. This section will describe current use, and other current values as identified by Native American informants.

3. Wildlife. All species identified as an BLM sensitive species, or are on a State or Federal list are mentioned. Other important species are those

whose presence is considered unusual, or are economically important.

4. Vegetation. The number of sensitive plant species found in the Planning Unit is mentioned, along with unusual plant assemblages.

5. Wilderness. If a Wilderness Study Area covers all, or a part of a Planning Unit, it will be mentioned. The ranking of the WSA on a desert-wide scale will also be given.

6. Grazing. If the Planning Unit contains an existing or proposed grazing allotment, the condition of the range will be given.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. If the Planning Unit contains all, or part of a Herd Management Area, the range condition will be given along with the number of wild horses and burros, if possible.

8. Recreation. Major recreation opportunities, excellent scenic quality areas, and major current activities are listed.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Accounts of significant past production are given, along with identified potential for future production, and, whenever possible, the number of patented and unpatented mining claims.

Appendix II is intended to provide a convenient summary of major decisions and values for each Planning Unit. Included with each of the Planning Units are two maps which delineate each of the proposed actions. Referring to the colored maps in the Proposed Plan will be useful in determining the location of the Planning Unit within the CDCA.



## PLANNING UNIT #1

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class. This entire planning unit is recommended as Class L to protect the area's primitive characteristics, as well as wildlife, cultural, and Native American values. Class L will also provide limited vehicle access for the management of grazing, feral horses and burros, and for mineral exploration and development. (1, Map 1)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The planning unit contains one area of critical environmental concern, White Mountain City, ACEC #1, which is recommended to protect both prehistoric and historic values. See Appendix IV.

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Deep Springs Valley shadscale plant community. The management objective is to manage this wildlife habitat to ensure protection of this wildlife habitat and its occupants. Completion of the plan is to be within 10 years. Long term management will require changes in livestock grazing practices. (W2, Map 2)

4. Grazing Allotments. Planning Unit #1 contains portions of four grazing allotments. These are:

Fishlake Valley Allotment. It will maintain a perennial designation with the present use of 52 Animal Unit Months. The seasons of use are spring and summer. The Allotment Management Plan is low priority, and will be developed with monitoring for the pallid kangaroo mouse. (1, Map 2)

Oasis Ranch Allotment. It will maintain a perennial designation with the present use of 656 Animal Unit Months. Seasons of use are fall, winter, and spring. The Allotment Management Plan is low priority, and will include protection for the Cottonwood Creek riparian area, and monitoring. (5, Map 2)

Bar 99 Allotment. It will maintain a perennial designation with the present use of 307 Animal Unit Months. The seasons of use are spring and fall. The Fishlake Valley Allotment Management Plan will also cover the Bar 99 allotment. (2, Map 2)

Deep Springs Allotment. It will maintain a perennial designation, and will reduce authorized use from 1,250 to 1,018 Animal Unit Months. The seasons of use are winter and spring. A medium priority Allotment Management Plan will be developed, and coordinated with management guidelines for the Deep Springs Valley Black Toad Critical Habitat. (3, Map 2)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Planning Unit #1 contains a portion of the Piper Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA). The management of this HMA will be covered in the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) and calls for a reduction of the wild horse population from 44 to 17, while the feral burro populations will be reduced from 150 to 82 animals. These recommended reductions are based on the condition rating of the herd concentration area, wildlife recommendations, and forage allocations for livestock. The HMAP is low priority. Implementation will begin in F.Y. 83. The objective of the HMAP will be to protect the Last Chance bighorn sheep range from overuse by

wild horses and burros. (Q, Map 2)

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the Multiple Use Guidelines.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. Planning Unit #1 contains areas of known high, and very high cultural resource sensitivity and significance that are scattered throughout the Planning Unit. These include both prehistoric and historic resources. Cultural resources are known and predicted along the permanent water courses emanating from the White Mountains, and where valuable mineral deposits occur. The permanent streams also provided access to the higher elevations where pinyon is found.

2. Native American Values. Planning Unit #1 contains numerous identified areas of ritual significance and contemporary use, mostly related to gathering activities and mortuary practices. It is an area of traditional significance to the Panamint Shoshone and the Paiutes.

3. Wildlife Values. Planning Unit #1 contains one Federal and State listed species, the black toad. Other important species include the prairie falcon, yellow-breasted chat, yellow warbler, and the pallid kangaroo mouse. The Deep Springs Valley shadscale habitat and the Cottonwood Creek riparian area are particularly important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation Values. There are no special vegetation values in Planning Unit #1.

5. Wilderness Values. The following Wilderness Study Areas occur in Planning Unit #1:

| <u>WSA</u>                     | <u>Ranking (out of 137)</u> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| #100 McAfee Creek              | 127                         |
| #100A North Tip                | 126                         |
| #101 Toler Creek               | 132                         |
| #102 Northwest Fishlake Valley | 116                         |
| #103 White Mountain            | 136                         |
| #104 Cottonwood Creek          | 115                         |
| #105 Wyman Creek               | 129                         |
| #107A Antelope Spring          | 120                         |

Additional information on Wilderness Study Areas is contained in Appendix III.

6. Grazing Values. The Fishlake Valley Allotment range condition is good. The Oasis Ranch Allotment range condition is good. The Bar 99 Allotment range condition is good. The Deep Springs Allotment range condition is fair.

7. Wild Horse and Burro Values. The condition of the herd concentration area within the Piper Mountain Herd Management Area is fair. There are 44 wild horses, and 150 feral burros present.

8. Recreation. There are excellent opportunities for activities related to Natural/Cultural values, particularly in Cottonwood Canyon, which also contains excellent scenic quality. Twelve miles of a road eligible for designation as a State Scenic Route (State Route 168) passes through the planning unit. Current activities include hunting, camping, touring, rock and mineral collecting, and education.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral Values. Sand and gravel are presently being extracted from this planning unit. Copper, silver, lead, gold, zinc, sand and gravel have been produced from this area in the past. Uranium and tungsten also occur here. There is potential for these commodities as well as for porphyry-type copper or molybdenum occurrences. In this area, 35 unpatented claims were reported by BLM as of December 12, 1979.

#### PLANNING UNIT #2

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class. Planning Unit #2 is recommended as Class L to protect natural and cultural resources while allowing vehicular access for existing grazing mineral exploration and development, and wild horse and burro management. (2, Map 1)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. No Habitat Management Plans (HMPs).

4. Grazing Allotments. Planning Unit #2 contains portions of two Grazing Allotments. These are:

Last Chance Allotment. Range designation is changed from perennial to ephemeral/perennial. Authorized use levels will be reduced from 3,267 to 3,055 Animal Unit Months. Season of use is year-round. A high priority Allotment Management Plan (AMP) will be prepared. An objective of the AMP will be to eliminate livestock use in the mountains so that bighorn sheep have use of the available springs. (4, Map 2)

South Oasis Allotment. It will maintain a perennial designation, and its current authorized use level of 477 Animal Unit Months. Seasons of use are spring and fall. The Allotment Management Plan is medium priority. (6, Map 2)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Planning Unit #2 contains a portion of the Piper Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA). The management of this area will be covered in the Chicago Valley HMAP and calls for a reduction of the wild horse population from 44 to 17, while the feral burro population will be reduced from 150 to 82 animals. These recommended reductions are based on the condition rating of the herd concentration area, wildlife recommendations, and forage allocations for livestock. The HMAP is low priority; implementation will begin in FY 83. The objective of the HMAP will be to protect the Last Chance Bighorn Sheep range from overuse by wild horses and burros. (Q, Map 2)

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. There are no identified areas of high or very high cultural resource sensitivity in this unit, however there is a good potential for sites.

2. Native American Values. Fish Lake Valley was traditionally used as a wild seed gathering area by Paiute Indians.

3. Wildlife Values. The planning unit contains one BLM sensitive species, the desert bighorn sheep. Other important species include the golden eagle, prairie falcon, pallid kangaroo mouse, and mule deer.

4. Vegetation Values. There are no special vegetation values identified in Planning Unit #2.

5. Wilderness Values. Planning Unit #2 contains a portion of Wilderness Study Area #111, Sylvania Mountains. It was ranked Number 72 out of 137. See Appendix III.

6. Grazing Values. The Last Chance Allotment range condition is fair. The South Oasis Allotment range condition is fair.

7. Wild Horse and Burro Values. The condition of the herd concentration area within the Piper Mountain Herd Management Area is fair. There are 44 wild horses, and 150 feral burros present.

8. Recreation Values. Planning Unit #2 contains excellent backpacking opportunities at the north end of the unit. Less than 10% of the planning unit has excellent scenic quality.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral Values. The Planning Unit contains extensive deposits of sand and gravel. There are no other known mineral resources here, though seven claims have been patented in the middle of the valley.



### PLANNING UNIT #3

#### A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class. This unit is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife and cultural resources while providing vehicle access for management of grazing, wild horses and burros, and for mineral exploration and development. (3, Map 1)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #3 contains a portion of ACEC #2, the Deep Springs Valley Black Toad Habitat. The purpose of the ACEC is to protect the black toad, listed by the State of California as rare. See Appendix IV. (2, Map 1)

3. Wildlife Management. Planning Unit #3 contains a portion of Habitat Management Plan, Deep Springs Valley (Shadscale Community). Its purpose is to protect special wildlife habitat and its occupants. Completion of this plan is projected for ten years. Long-term habitat management will require changes in current grazing practices. (W-2, Map 2)

4. Grazing Allotments. Planning Unit #3 contains a portion of the Deep Springs Allotment. It will maintain a perennial designation, and reduce authorized use from 1,250 to 1,018 Animal Unit Months. The season of use is winter and spring. A medium priority Allotment Management Plan will be developed, and coordinated with management guidelines for the Deep Springs Valley Black Toad Habitat. (3, Map 2)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Planning Unit #3 contains a portion of the Piper Mountain Herd Management Area. The management of this HMA will be covered in the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) and call for a reduction of the wild horse population from 44 to 17, while the feral burro population will be reduced from 150 to 82 animals. These recommended reductions are based on the condition rating of the herd concentration area, wildlife recommendations, and forage allocations for livestock. The HMAP is low priority; with implementation to begin in FY 83. The objective of the HMAP will be to protect the Last Chance bighorn sheep range from overuse by wild horses and burros. (Q, Map 2)

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the Multiple-Use Class guidelines.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. The unit includes Deep Springs Lake and numerous springs around the perimeter. Deep Springs Valley, occupied by the southern Paiute, includes a wide range of site types from the most complex, i.e. village to the most simple, i.e. isolated find. Historic sites are also present and are associated with the mineral deposits in the mountainous regions.

2. Native American Values. Planning Unit #3 contains numerous identified



areas of ritual significance, and contemporary use, mostly related to gathering activities and mortuary practices. It is an area of traditional significance to the Panamint Shoshone and Paiute.

3. Wildlife Values. The black toad is a State listed rare species. Other important species include the summer tanager, Ord Kangaroo Rat, and the pallid kangaroo mouse. The Deep Springs Valley shadscale community is especially important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation Values. There are no special vegetation values identified in Planning Unit #3.

5. Wilderness Values. Planning Unit #3 contains a portion of Wilderness Study Area #115, Piper Mountain. It was ranked #61 out of 137. See Appendix III.

6. Grazing Values. The Deep Springs Allotment range condition is fair.

7. Wild Horse and Burro Values. The condition of the herd concentration area within the Piper Mountain Herd Management Area is fair. There are 44 wild horses, and 150 burros present.

8. Recreation Values. There are excellent birdwatching and educational opportunities in and around Deep Springs Valley. Important activities in the Planning Unit include four-wheel drive touring, hunting, target shooting, and nature study.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral Values. Deep Springs Valley contains borates, halite, sulfates, and zeolites, all in undetermined amounts and grades. This planning unit contains a pumice deposit, and has medium potential for locatable nonmetallic minerals.

#### PLANNING UNIT #4

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

##### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) Almost all of this unit is recommended as Class L to protect primitive characteristics, and wildlife, vegetative, scenic, and cultural resources, while permitting vehicle access for mineral exploration and management of grazing and wild horses and burros. (4a, Map 1)

b) A small portion of Planning Unit #4 is recommended for Class M status because of the presence of a mineral operation which is currently inactive. Class M will also provide for protection of natural and cultural resources through mitigation of impacts caused by permitted uses. (4b, Map 1)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #4 contains a portion of the Deep Springs Valley Black Toad Habitat, ACEC #2). The purpose of the ACEC is to protect the black toad, listed by the State of California as rare. See Appendix IV. (2, Map 1)

3. Wildlife Management. No Habitat Management Plans.

4. Grazing Allotments. Planning Unit #4 contains portions of three grazing allotments. These are:

South Oasis Allotment. It will maintain a perennial designation, and its current authorized use level of 477 Animal Unit Months. Seasons of use are spring and fall. The Allotment Management Plan is medium priority. (6, Map 2)

Deep Springs Allotment. It will maintain a perennial designation, and will reduce authorized use from 1,250 to 1,018 Animal Unit Months. The seasons of use are winter and spring. A medium priority Allotment Management Plan will be developed, and coordinated with management guidelines for the Deep Springs Valley Black Toad Habitat. (3, Map 2)

Last Chance Allotment. Range designation is maintained as perennial. Authorized use levels will be reduced from 3,267 to 3,055 Animal Unit. Use is allowed all year. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will be prepared. An objective of the AMP will be to eliminate livestock use in the mountains so that bighorn sheep have use of the available springs. (4, Map 2)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Planning Unit #4 contains a portion of the Piper Mountain Herd Management Area. The management of this HMA will be covered in the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) and calls for reduction of the wild horse population from 44 to 17, while the feral burro population will be reduced from 150 to 82 animals. These recommended reductions are based on the condition rating of the herd concentration area, wildlife recommendations, and forage allocations for livestock. The HMAP is low priority, with implementation beginning in FY 83. The objective of the HMAP will be to protect the Last Chance bighorn sheep range from overuse by wild horses and burros. (Q, Map 2)

Planning Unit #4 contains a portion of the Sand Spring/Last Chance Wild Horse and Burro Area. Burros were removed from this area in the spring of 1980 because of a concentration of Locoweed that was affecting their health. As burros attempt to repopulate this area, they will be continuously removed. The removal of these burros will be discussed in the capture plan portion of the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). (5, Map 2)

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There is one exception to the Multiple Use Class Guidelines in Planning Unit #4. This is ACEC #2, the Deep Springs Valley Black Toad Habitat, which will be closed to vehicle access.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. The whole northern end of the Inyo Mountains includes areas of known high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance. Paiutes from Deep Springs Valley used the higher elevations to gather pinyon nuts. Consequently, sites are primarily specialized camps rather than permanent occupation sites.

2. Native American Values. Planning Unit #4 contains a pinyon nut collection area. It is an area of traditional value, and on-going ritual use by the Shoshone and Paiutes.
3. Wildlife Values. The only Federal and State listed species is the black toad. Other important species include the prairie falcon, pallid kangaroo mouse, and mule deer.
4. Vegetation Values. A small portion of an unusual plant assemblage, and a sensitive plant species are located in Planning Unit #4.
5. Wilderness Values. Planning Unit #4 contains a portion of Wilderness Study Area #115, Piper Mountain. It was ranked #61 out of 137. See Appendix III.
6. Grazing Values. The South Oasis Allotment Range condition is fair. The Deep Spring Allotment range condition is fair. The Last Chance Allotment range condition is fair.
7. Wild Horse and Burro Values. The condition of the herd concentration area within the Piper Mountain Herd Management Area is fair. There are 44 wild horses and 150 feral burros present.
8. Recreation Values. Little recreation use occurs in this planning unit. About 40% of the Planning Unit contains excellent scenic quality.
9. Geology-Energy-Mineral Values. The southern part of this planning unit has two reported occurrences of tungsten in an area of medium potential. Sand and gravel, and dolomite have been produced from the Joshua Flats area. The northern part of the planning unit has two field-verified copper occurrences in roof pendants, and a potentially favorable environment for pumice.

#### PLANNING UNIT #5

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

##### 1. Multiple-Use Class.

- a) This large portion of Planning Unit #5 is recommended as Class L to protect its primitive character and wildlife, vegetative, scenic, and cultural resources, while permitting vehicle access for recreation, grazing demands, mineral exploration and development, and for wild horse and burro management. (5a, Map 1)
- b) This narrow strip of Planning Unit #5 adjacent to the Nevada border is recommended for Class M status to permit motorized vehicle access for mineral exploration and development while allowing for protection of natural and cultural resources. (5b, Map 1)
- c) The southern tip of Planning Unit #5 is recommended for Class M status because of the mining activity which is traditional in this area. This multiple use class will provide for conservation of natural resources and mitigation of damages caused by permitted uses. (5c, Map 1)



2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Managment. No Habitat Management Plans.

4. Grazing Allotments. Last Chance Allotment. Range designation is not changed from perennial. Authorized use levels will be reduced from 3,267 to 3,055 Animal Unit Months. The season of use is year round. A high priority Allotment Management Plan (AMP) will be prepared. An objective of the AMP will be to eliminate livestock use in the mountains so that bighorn sheep have use of the available springs. (4, Map 2)

Last Chance Extension. This will increase the acreage covered by the Last Chance Allotment.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Planning Unit #5 contains a portion of the Piper Mountain Herd Management Area. The management of this HMA will be covered in the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) and calls for a reduction of the wild horse population from 44 to 17, while the feral burro population will be reduced from 150 to 82 animals. These recommended reductions are based on the condition rating of the herd concentration area, wildlife recommendations, and forage allocations for livestock. The HMAP is low priority. Implementation will begin in FY 83. The objective of the HMAP will be to protect the Last Chance bighorn sheep range from overuse by wild horses and burros. (Q, Map 2)

Planning Unit #5 contains a portion of the Sand Spring/Last Chance Wild Horse and Burro Area. Burros were removed from this area in the spring of 1980 because of a concentration of Locoweed that was affecting their health. As burros attempt to repopulate this area, they will be continuously removed. The removal of these burros will be discussed in the capture plan portion of the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). (5, Map 2)

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. Areas of known high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are scattered throughout the planning unit. These areas incorporate both historic and prehistoric resources that are concentrated near the pinyon seed gathering areas, and water sources, as well as near valuable mineral deposits.

2. Native American Values. Native American consultants have indicated that this planning unit contains currently used pinyon collection areas. The Paiute and Panamint Shoshone, as well as other Native American groups, continue to use this area to collect spring annuals.

3. Wildlife Values. In Planning Unit #5, the desert bighorn sheep is the only BLM sensitive species. Other important species include the golden eagle, prairie falcon, pallid kangaroo mouse, and mule deer.



4. Vegetation Values. Two sensitive plant species occur in Planning Unit #5B.
5. Wilderness Values. Planning Unit #5 contains Wilderness Study Area #112, Last Chance Range. It was rated #49 out of 137. See Appendix III.
6. Grazing Values. The Last Chance Allotment range condition is fair.
7. Wild Horse and Burro Values. The condition of the herd concentration area within the Piper Mountain Herd Management Area is fair. There are 44 wild horses and 150 feral burros present.
8. Recreation Values. There are excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities in Last Chance Canyon, and Willow Springs. Crater Camp has excellent interpretive potential. The entire Planning Unit is rated as excellent scenic quality. Current activities include camping, touring, sightseeing and photography.
9. Geology-Energy-Mineral Values. Two molybdenum deposits are currently being developed in the eastern part of the planning unit. As of December, 1979, there were 389 unpatented mining claims reported by the BLM as of the immediate area of development. Mercury has been produced in the south central part of the planning area. There is a reported tungsten occurrence in the north part of the planning area, coinciding with 20 unpatented mining claims. Sulfur has been produced from mines at Crater, in the south part of the area, which also contains identified resources of gypsum. The remainder of the planning unit has medium to speculative potential for molybdenum, tungsten, sulfur, and gypsum deposits.

PLANNING UNIT **1,2,3,4,5**

CLASS C

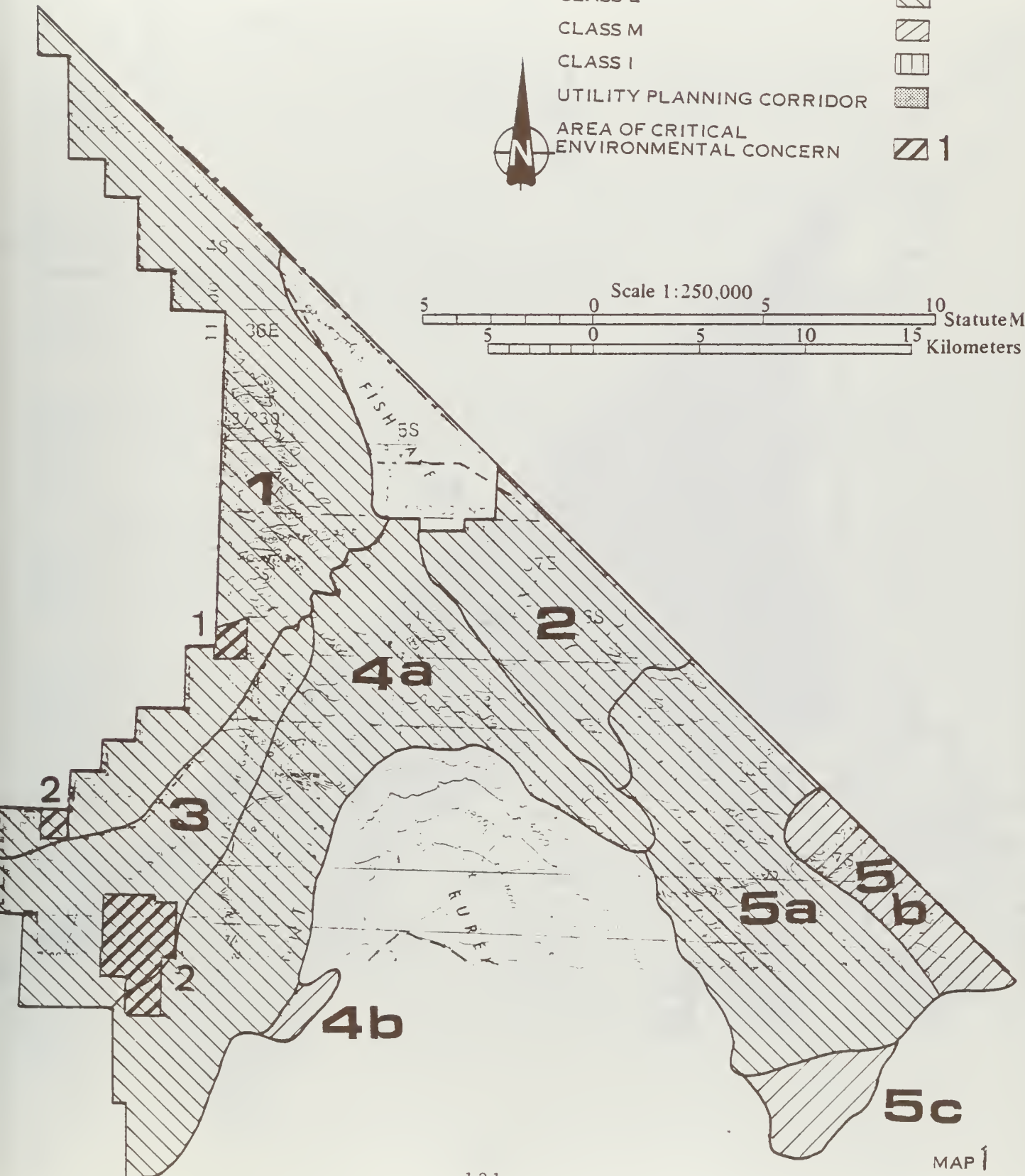
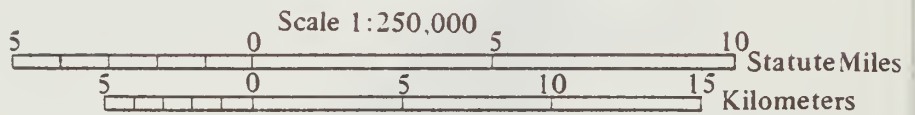
CLASS L

CLASS M

CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



PLANNING UNIT **1,2,3,4,5**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED

 **W2**

 **Q,S**

 **1,2,3**

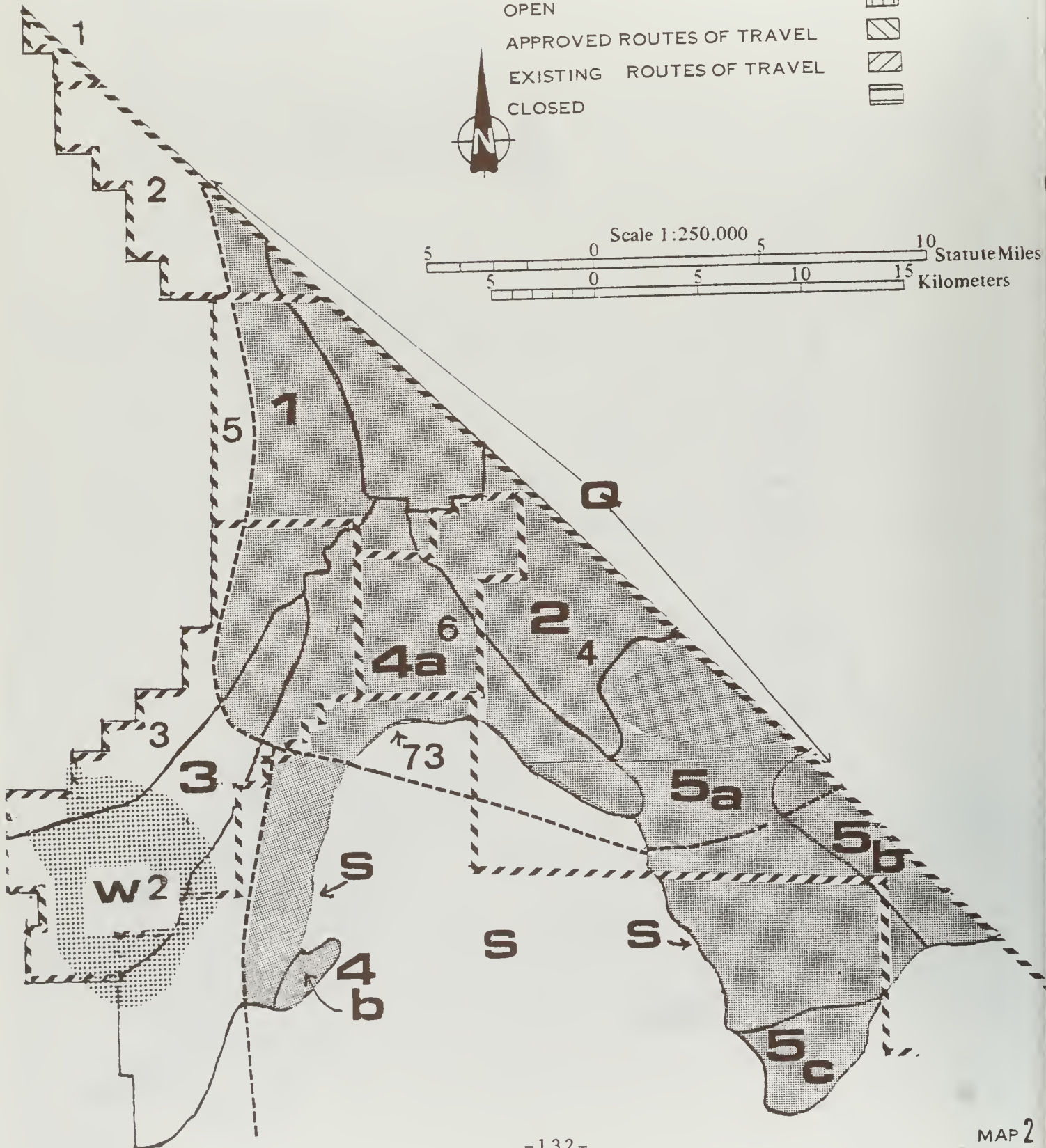
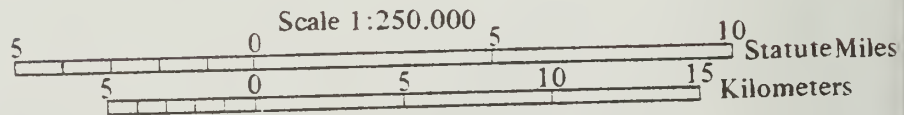
**4,5,6,73**













## PLANNING UNIT #6

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Classes.

a) Planning Unit No. 6A is recommended as Class L to protect natural and cultural values, and to provide vehicle access for mineral exploration. A Class L designation will also provide management continuity with adjacent Planning Units 4 and 5. (6a, Map 3)

b) Planning Unit 6B is recommended as Class C to protect wilderness qualities; and wildlife, vegetative, scenic, and Native American values. (6a, Map 3)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #6 contains Area of Critical Environmental Concern #3, the Eureka Dunes. ACEC designation will provide protection for rare and endemic flora and fauna. See Appendix IV. (3, Map 3)

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Eureka Dunes. It's objective will be to protect rare plants and endemic beetles. The HMP will be completed in two to five years. Proposed management actions include an immediate increase in the presence of field personnel. (3, Map 4)

4. Grazing Allotments. There are no existing grazing allotments in Planning Unit #6. Two grazing allotments are proposed for this planning unit with strictly ephemeral forage allocation. These are Eureka Valley and Last Chance, both will be additions to existing allotments. (73, Map 4 and 74, Map 4)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Planning Unit #6 contains a portion of the Sand Spring/Last Chance Wild Horse and Burro Area. Burros were removed from this area in the spring of 1980 because of concentration of Locoweed that was effecting their health. As burros attempt to re-populate this area, they will be continuously removed. The removal of these burros will be discussed in the capture portion of the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). (5, Map 4)

Planning Unit #6 contains a portion of the Waucoba/Hunter Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA). In the entire HMA feral burros will be reduced from 1,340 to 444 animals. They will be eliminated from the vicinity of Hunter Mountain. Reductions and eliminations are based on carrying capacity of the burro concentration areas, and the effect of burros on both wildlife and cultural resources. The management of burros in this HMA will be discussed in the Saline-Panamint Valley HMAP. The Herd Management Area Plan is high priority, and will keep feral burros out of mountainous areas, and protect Inyo Mountains salamander habitat. The HMAP is scheduled for completion by the end of fiscal year 1981. (U, Map 4)

6. Utility Corridors. None



7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class Guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. There are few known areas of high, or very high cultural resource sensitivity in the northern part of Eureka Valley. The southern part of Eureka Valley was used by the Shoshone, Piute, and earlier peoples for wild seed gathering, and many temporary camps and procurment sites are present.

2. Native American. In this planning unit are occupation sites, hunting and collection areas, and many ritual and mortuary sites. These are of continuing value to the Owens Valley Paiute, Panamint Shoshone, and other Native American groups.

3. Wildlife Value. The desert bighorn sheep is the only species present that is on the BLM sensitive species list. Other important species include the prairie falcon, golden eagle, pale kangaroo mouse and mule deer.

4. Vegetation Values. Two plant species officially listed as "endangered" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are found in Planning Unit 6B. A third sensitive species is a candidate for listing as threatened.

5. Wilderness Values. Planning Unit #6 contains portions of two Wilderness Study Areas. The first is WSA #115, Piper Mountain, rated 61 out of 137. The second is WSA #117, Saline Valley, rated 1 out of 137. See Appendix III.

6. Wild Horse and Burro Values. None

7. Grazing Values. Two proposed grazing allotments are in this planning unit. The Eureka Valley range condition is good. The Last Chance Extension range condition is good.

8. Recreation Values. There are excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities. The Eureka Dunes are rated as an excellent interpretive site. A moderate level of educational and research use occur in the Eureka Valley. The entire planning unit is rated as excellent scenic quality. Major activities include vehicle touring, education and research, and photography.

9. Geology,-Energy,-Mineral Values. There are no locatable metallic or nonmetallic occurrences reported from this planning unit. Lithium and uranium are reported from a U.S. Geological Survey exploratory well in the Eureka Playa. Eight unpatented mining claims were reported by the BLM as of December 1979.

PLANNING UNIT #9

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class.

a) The major portion of Planning Unit #9 is recommended as Class C to

protect wilderness qualities; and wildlife, scenic, and cultural values. (9a, Map 3)

b) & e) The small section in the northwest portion and the larger area in the southern part of Planning Unit #9 are recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, vegetative, scenic, and cultural resources, while providing vehicle access for mineral exploration. (9b, 9e, Map 3)

c) & d) These areas are recommended as Class M to provide for existing mining activities, and potential expansion of mineral operations. Class M status will allow for mitigation of impacts of permitted uses on desert resources. (9c & 9d, Map 3)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #9 contains ACEC #4, Saline Valley, the purpose of which is to protect wildlife habitat. See Appendix IV. (4, Map 3)

3. Wildlife Management. Planning Unit #9 contains a portion of Habitat Management Plan #4, Saline Valley Dunes and Mesquite Marsh. The purpose of the HMP is to protect wildlife habitat that supports breeding and wintering birds. The area is threatened by burros. The HMP will be completed in two to five years. Immediate implementation includes fencing, removal of exotic vegetation, and restrictions on camping and vehicle parking.

4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Planning Unit #9 contains a portion of the Waucoba/Hunter Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA). In the entire HMA feral burros will be reduced from 1,340 to 444 animals. They will be eliminated from the vicinity of Hunter Mountain. Reductions and eliminations are based on carrying capacity of the burro concentration areas, and the effect of burros on both wildlife and cultural resources. The management of burros in this HMA will be discussed in the Saline-Panamint Valley HMAP. The Herd Management Area Plan is high priority, and will keep feral burros out of mountainous areas, and protect Inyo Mountains salamander habitat. The HMAP is scheduled for completion by the end of Fiscal Year 1981. (U, Map 4)

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class Guidelines.

## B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. This planning unit includes extensive areas of known high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance. They incorporate resources from the most simple to the most complex, and range from the early prehistoric to the historic mining period, including some potential National Register of Historic Places districts. This diversity of archaeological remains is a reflection of the numerous natural resources available in this valley.

2. Native American Values. Planning Unit #9 contains Paiute camps, Shoshone

villages, cremation sites, and collection areas.

3. Wildlife Values. The desert bighorn sheep is the only BLM sensitive species, other important species include the golden eagle, prairie falcon, and mule deer. The Saline Valley dunes are particularly important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation Values. Planning Unit #9A contains at least two sensitive plant species. Planning Unit 9B contains a small portion of an unusual plant assemblage. Planning Unit 9D contains at least one, and possibly two sensitive plant species.

5. Wilderness Values. Planning Unit #9 contains a portion of Wilderness Study Area #117, Saline Valley. It is ranked #1 out of 137. See Appendix III.

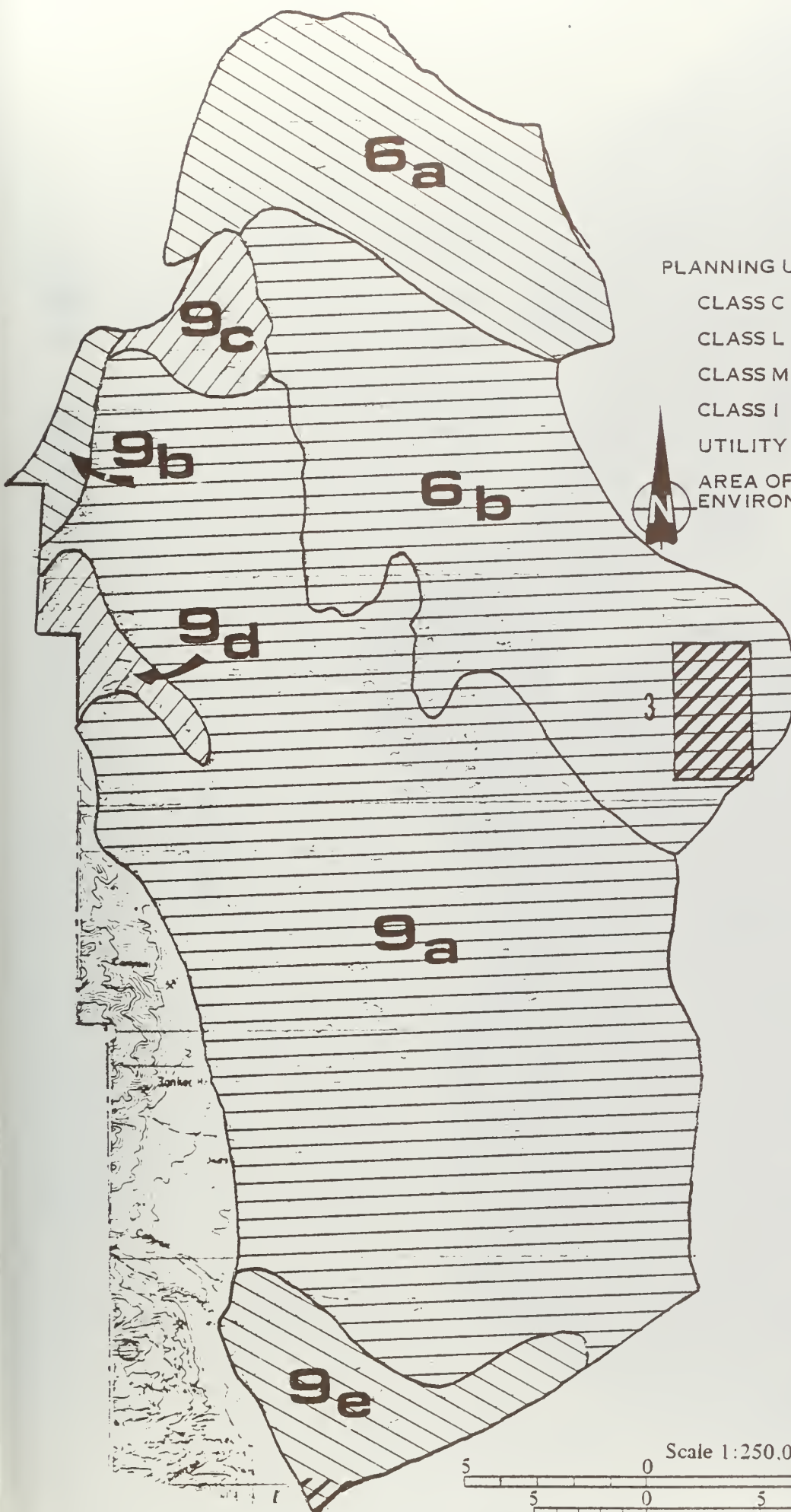
6. Grazing Values. None.

7. Wild Horse and Burro Values. The general range condition in herd concentration areas is poor to fair. There are approximately 1,540 feral burros present.

8. Recreation Values. At the present time, major activities include vehicle touring and access, hobby prospecting, camping, soaking in the warm springs, and nature study. There are excellent hiking, backpacking, and birdwatching opportunities in Saline Valley, and in the Saline Range. The entire planning unit is rated as having excellent scenic quality.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral Values. This planning unit has been the scene of mineral production in the past. Gold was produced in Marble Canyon; silver was produced from Jackass Flats; and talc was produced from the Nikolaus-Eureka and Longhorn mines; and lead, zinc, and copper from the Loretto Mine in the northern part of the unit. Also, manganese was produced near Upper Warm Springs. Also reported are 6 occurrences of copper, a lead occurrence, and a gold occurrence near Waucoba Wash. The southern part of the unit has potential for low-temperature geothermal resources, and has been classified by the U.S. Geological Survey as prospectively valuable for sodium and potassium. This planning unit contains 5 unpatented mining claims.





PLANNING UNIT **6,9**

CLASS C

CLASS L

CLASS M

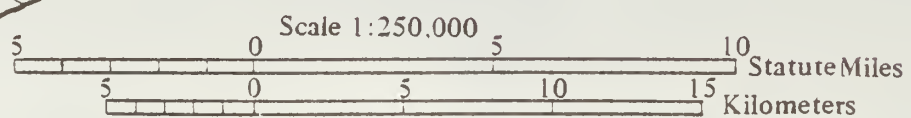
CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

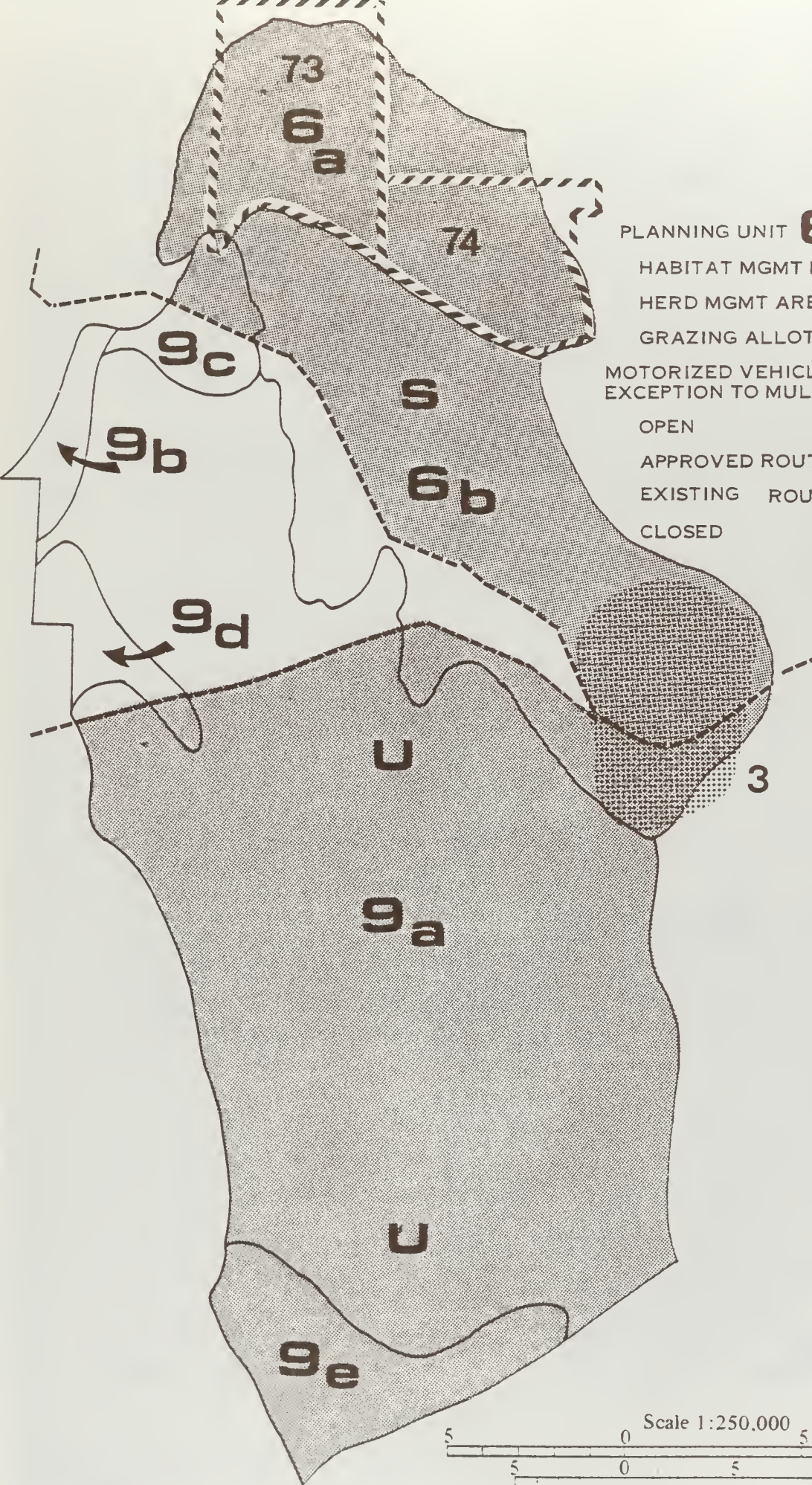
AREA OF CRITICAL **3 4**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



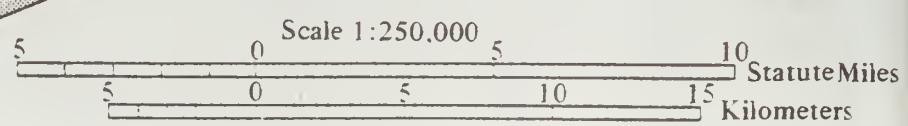
MAP **3**







- PLANNING UNIT **6,9**
- HABITAT MGMT PLAN **3**
- HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **S,U**
- GRAZING ALLOTMENT **73,74**
- MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS
- OPEN
- APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL
- EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL
- CLOSED



MAP 4

## PLANNING UNIT #7

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class C to protect wilderness qualities; and wildlife, cultural, and scenic values. (7a, Map 5)

b) This small section in the northern portion of Planning Unit #7 is recommended as Class M, because of historic and current mining activities. This designation will provide for protection of natural resources against impacts of permitted uses. (7b, Map 5)

#### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None

#### 3. Wildlife Management. No HMP.

4. Grazing Allotments. Planning Unit #7 contains a portion of the Last Chance Allotment. Range designation is not changed from perennial. Authorized use levels will be reduced from 3,267 to 3,055 Animal Unit Months. Season of use is all year around. A high priority Allotment Management plan will be prepared. An objective of the AMP will be to eliminate livestock use in the mountains so that Bighorn Sheep may have use of the available springs. (4, Map 6)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Planning Unit #7 contains a portion of the Sand Spring/Last Chance Wild Horse and Burro Area. Burros were removed from this area in the spring of 1980 because of a concentration of Locoweed that was effecting their health. As burros attempt to re-populate this area, they will be continuously removed. The removal of these burros will be discussed in the capture plan portion of the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). (S, Map 6).

Planning Unit #7 also contains a portion of the Waucoba/Hunter Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA). In the entire HMA feral burros will be reduced from 1,540 to 444 animals. They will be eliminated from the vicinity of Hunter Mountain. Reductions and eliminations are based on the current range condition, carrying capacity of the burro concentration areas, and the effect of burros on both wildlife and cultural resources. The management of burros in this HMA will be discussed in the Saline-Panamint Valley HMAP. The Herd Management Area Plan is high priority, and will keep feral burros out of mountainous areas, and protect Inyo Mountains Salamander habitat. The HMAP is scheduled for completion by the end of Fiscal Year 1981. (U, Map 6)

#### 6. Utility Corridors. None

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. One area of known very high cultural resource



sensitivity/significance is found in this unit, specifically along the pass connecting the Saline and Eureka Valleys. It is associated with a minor obsidian source, although it was probably more significant as a route of travel.

2. Native American Values. Native American consultants have indicated that this Planning Unit contains currently used pinyon collection areas. The Paiute and Panamint Shoshone, as well as other Native American groups, continue to use this area to collect spring annuals.

3. Wildlife Values. The desert bighorn sheep is a BLM sensitive species. Other important species include the golden eagle, prairie falcon, pallid kangaroo mouse, and mule deer.

4. Vegetation Values. Within Planning Unit 7A, is an unusual plant assemblage and three sensitive species, one of which is identified by the State of California as rare. Planning Unit #7B also contains part of an unusual plant assemblage, and at least four sensitive plant species.

5. Wilderness Values. Planning Unit #7 contains a portion of Wilderness Study Area #117, Saline Valley. It is ranked #1 out of 137 WSAs. See Appendix III.

6. Grazing Values. None.

7. Wild Horse and Burro Values. Sand Spring/Last Chance Wild Horse and Burro Area Range condition is poor, with limited water. A concentration of locoweed presents a severe health problem to the burros.

The general condition of herd concentration areas in the Waucoba/Hunter Mountain Herd Management area is poor to fair. There are approximately 1,540 feral burros present.

8. Recreation Values. The Last Chance Range has excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities. The entire Planning Unit is rated as excellent for scenic quality.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals Values. The northern part of this planning unit is adjacent to the sulfur mines at Crater, however there were no mining claims in this planning unit reported by the BLM as of December 1979.

#### PLANNING UNIT #8

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class. Planning Unit No. 8 is recommended as Class L to protect its primitive character and the wildlife and cultural resources while providing for vehicle access for management of grazing, burro control, mineral exploration, and vehicle-oriented recreation.

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. No HMP.

4. Grazing Allotments. The Planning Unit contains a portion of the Last Chance Allotment. Range designation is not changed from perinnial. Authorized use levels will be reduced from 3,267 to 3,055 Animal Unit Months. Season of use is all year around. A high priority Allotment Management plan will be prepared. An objective of the AMP will be to eliminate livestock use in the mountains so that Bighorn Sheep may have use of the available springs. (4, Map 6)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Planning Unit #8 contains a portion of the Sand Spring/Last Chance Wild Horse and Burro Area. Burros were removed from this area in the spring of 1980 because of a concentration of locoweed that was affecting their health. As burros attempt to re-populate this area, they will be continuously removed. The removal of burros in this area will be discussed in the capture plan portion of the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). This HMAP is low priority and will be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1983. (S, Map 6)

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the Multiple-Use Class Guidelines.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. A few areas of known high and very high cultural resource sensitivity are scattered throughout the Planning Unit. The sites that occur here are apparently associated with the few permanent water sources in northern Death Valley and with an occasional toolstone outcrop. The area was probably included within the seasonal rounds of the Shoshone.

2. Native American Values. Western canyon areas are still used by some of the Panamint Shoshone for traditional summer occupation and collection. The upper canyons contain some areas used for traditional medical practice by the Shoshone.

3. Wildlife Values. The only important species in the planning unit are the prairie falcon and the golden eagle.

4. Vegetation Values. An unusual plant assemblage at Big Sand Spring, and a sensitive plant species soon to be listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are contained within this Planning Unit.

5. Wilderness Values. Planning Unit #8 contains portions of three Wilderness Study Areas. These are as follows:

| <u>WSA</u>               | <u>Ranking (out of 137)</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| #117 Saline Valley       | 1                           |
| #118 North Death Valley  | 137                         |
| #119 Little Sand Springs | 24                          |

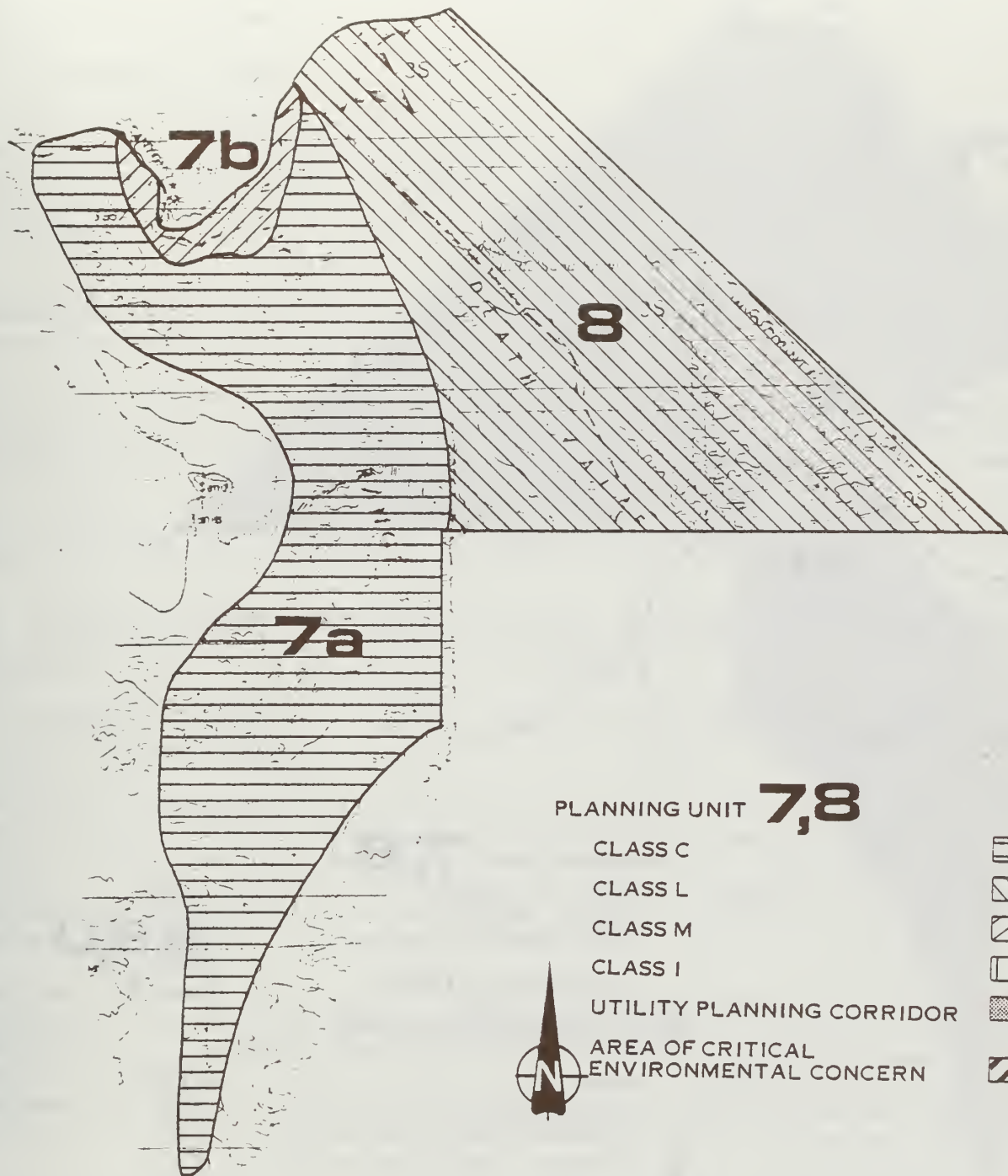


6. Grazing Values. The Last Chance Allotment range condition is fair.

7. Wild Horse and Burro Values. Sand Spring/Last Chance Wild horse and burro area - range condition is poor, with limited water. A concentration of locoweed presents a severe health problem to the burros.

8. Recreation Values. None.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral Values. The southern part of this planning unit has been classified by the U.S.Geological Survey as prospectively valuable for sodium and potassium.



PLANNING UNIT **7,8**

CLASS C

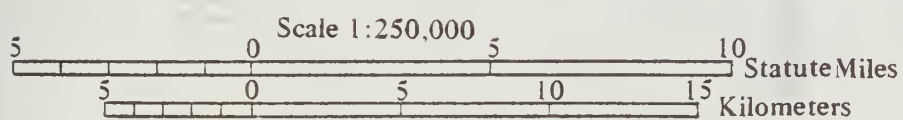
CLASS L

CLASS M

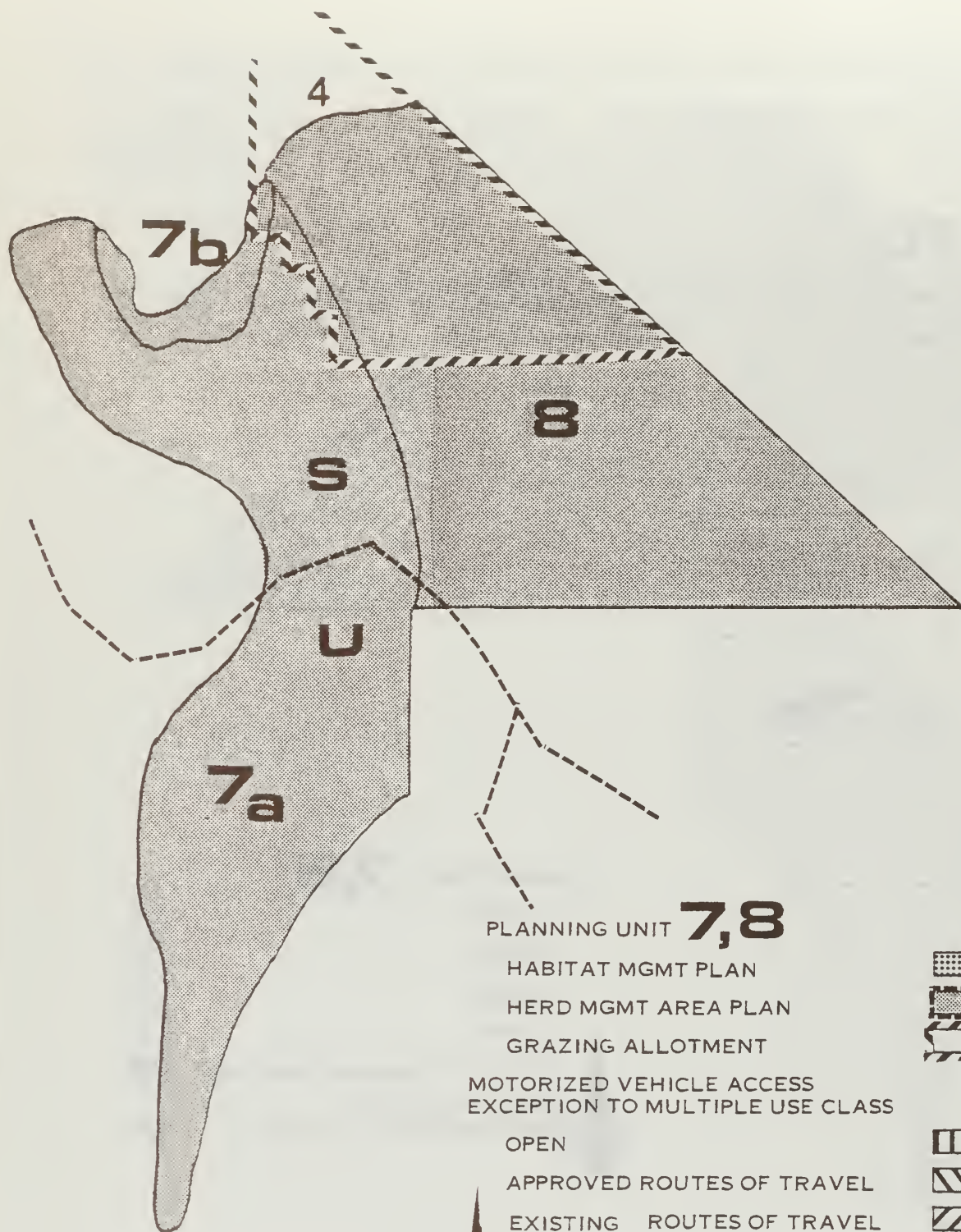
CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



MAP **5**



# PLANNING UNIT **7,8**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT

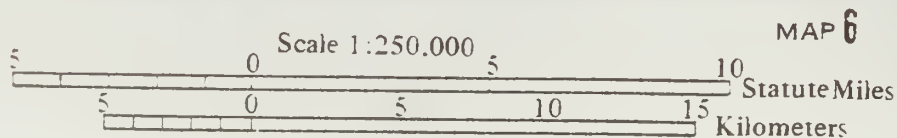
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



MAP 6



## PLANNING UNIT #10

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect primitive characteristics; and wildlife, vegetation, cultural, scenic, and Native American values. This class will also provide for vehicle access for mineral exploration and development, and for the management of grazing, and feral horses and burros. (10a, Map 7)

b) This section of Planning Unit #10 is recommended as Class C to protect wilderness qualities; and wildlife, scenic, vegetative, cultural, and Native American values. (10b, Map 7)

c) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for vehicle access for recreation, mineral exploration and development, and management of existing grazing, while allowing mitigation of damage to resources by permitted uses. (10c, Map 7)

d) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for existing mining activities at Willow Creek. (10d, Map 7)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #10 contains ACEC #5, Cerro Gordo. The purpose is to protect prehistoric, historic, and vegetative values. See Appendix IV. (5, Map 7)

3. Wildlife Management. Planning Unit #10 contains portions of four Wildlife Management Plans.

The Habitat Management Plan for the East slope of the Inyo Mountains, has as an objective, to protect the Inyo Mountains salamander, and the desert bighorn sheep. The HMP will be completed in two to five years. Immediate implementation includes fencing and removal of exotic vegetation. Long-term implementation consists of the protection of water sources and the removal of burros. (W3, Map 8)

The Habitat Management Plan for the Lee Flat Shadscale Scrub, has as a management objective to protect wildlife habitat and its occupants. Completion of the HMP will be within seven years. Long-term management will require changes in livestock grazing practices. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will be prepared to establish the distribution and level of livestock use necessary to maintain and enhance the bighorn sheep population.

The Habitat Management Plan for Saline Valley Dunes, Mesquite Thicket, and Marsh has as a purpose to protect a wildlife habitat that supports breeding bird species, and wintering birds. The area is threatened by burros. The HMP will be completed in two to five years. Immediate implementation included fencing, removal of exotic vegetation implementation includes fencing, removal of exotic vegetation, and restrictions on camping and vehicle parking areas. (4, Map 8)



The Habitat Management Plan for the Hunter-Cottonwood Mountain/Grapevine Canyon Bighorn Sheep Habitat has as a purpose to protect desert bighorn sheep habitat. It is scheduled for completion in one to two years. Immediate implementation includes fencing, and restrictions on camping and vehicle parking areas. (W4, Map 8)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Two Herd Management Areas are included in Planning Unit #10:

Planning Unit #10 contains a portion of the Waucoba/Hunter Mountain Herd Management Area. In entire HMA, feral burros will be reduced from 1,540 to 444 animals. They will be eliminated from the vicinity of Hunter Mountain. Reductions and eliminations are based on the current range condition, carrying capacity of the burro concentration areas, and the effect of burros on both wildlife and cultural resources. The management of burros in this HMA will be discussed in the Saline-Panamint Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The HMAP is high priority, and will keep feral burros out of mountainous areas, and protect Inyo Mountains salamander habitat. (U, Map 8)

Planning Unit #10 also contains a portion of the Lee Flat Herd Management Area. The existing herd of about thirty feral burros will be maintained at its present level. The Saline-Panamint Valley HMAP will discuss permanent water developments, and appropriate increases in burro population. The HMAP is scheduled for completion by the end of Fiscal Year 1981. (L, Map 8)

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. The only exception to the Multiple Use Class guidelines is in ACEC #5, Cerro Gordo. Although the ACEC is in Multiple Use Class M, existing routes of travel, the actual management designation will be approved routes of travel. This restriction on vehicle access will protect known cultural resource sites, and reduce impacts to areas inhabited by sensitive plant species. (5, Map 8)

## B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. Numerous areas of identified high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are scattered throughout the planning unit, including zones of historic and prehistoric resources. The historic values are associated with extensive mineral deposits in the Inyo Mountains, while the prehistoric sites are presumably associated with permanent water sources and with higher elevation food resources such as pinyon and deer. Planning Unit #10 also include some of the most important rock art sites north of the Coso Range. The Salt Tram National Register Site is included in this planning unit.

2. Native American Values. Planning Unit #10 contains numerous valued resources, including Paiute camps and burials, cremation sites, and temporary occupation sites.

3. Wildlife Values. In Planning Unit #10, the BLM sensitive species present are the Inyo Mountains salamander and the desert bighorn sheep. Other important species include the golden eagle, Panamint kangaroo rat, Pacific

tree frog, Panamint alligator lizard, prairie falcon, gray vireo, yellow-breasted chat, yellow warbler, and mule deer. The Grapevine Canyon riparian habitat is particularly important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation Values. Planning Unit #10A contains one unusual plant assemblage and at least three sensitive plant species.

Planning Unit 10B has three unusual plant assemblages (including the Inyo Mountains riparian areas), and three sensitive plant species, one of which is listed by the state of California as rare.

Planning Unit #10C contains one unusual plant assemblage, and at least one sensitive plant species.

5. Wilderness Values. Two Wilderness Study Areas are located in Planning Unit #10. WSA #120, Waucoba Wash, is rated as Number 20 out of 137. WSA #122, Inyo Mountains, is rated Number 22 out of 137. See Appendix III.

6. Grazing Values. Hunter Mountain Allotment - Range condition is fair.

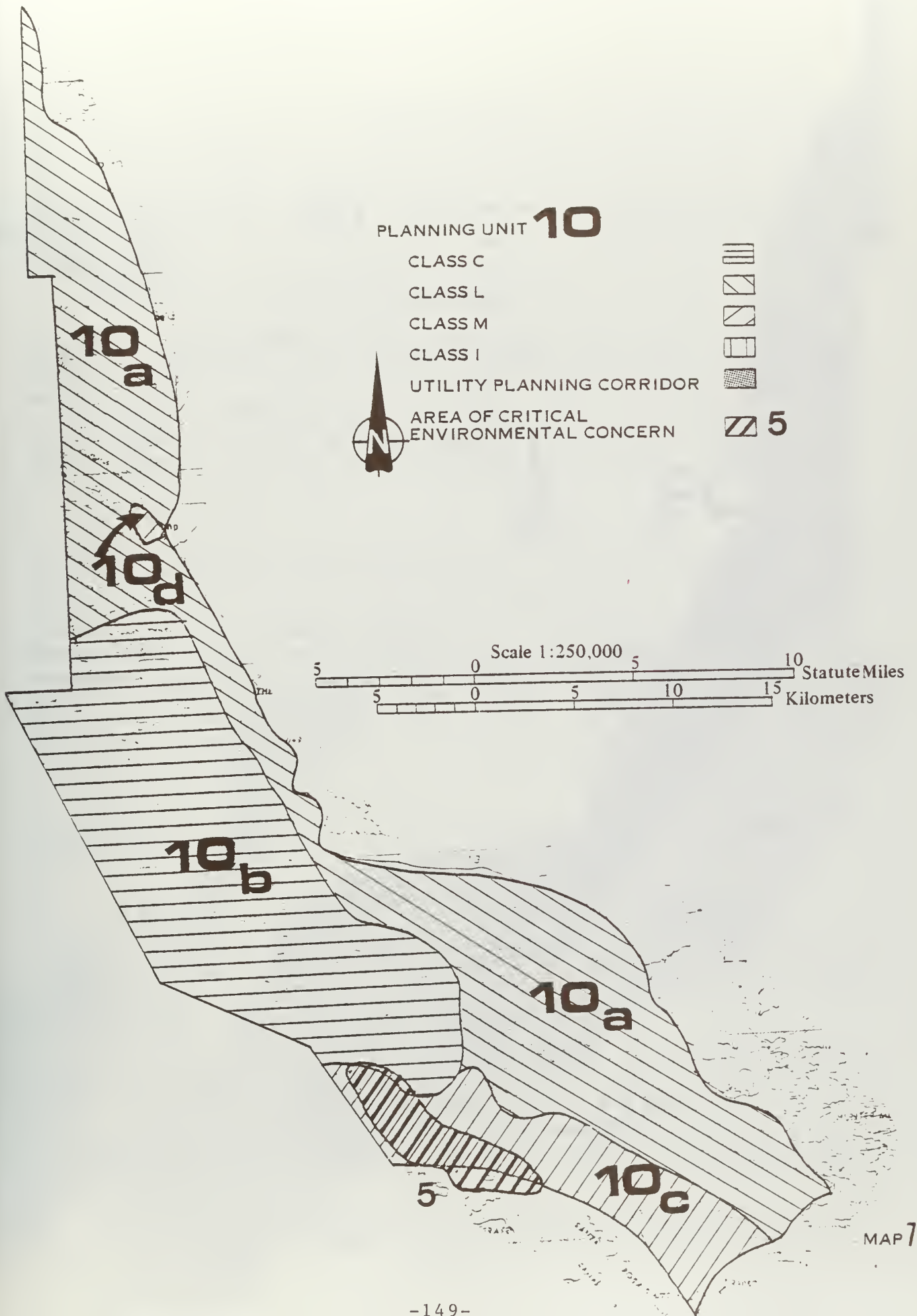
7. Wild Horse and Burro Values. The general range condition of the Waucoba/Hunter Mountain Herd Management Area, in herd concentration areas, is poor to fair. Approximately 1,540 feral burros are present.

There are about 30 feral burros present in the Lee Flat Herd Management Area, and the range condition is good.

8. Recreation Values. There are excellent birdwatching and other Natural/Cultural value oriented activity opportunities near Salt Lake and the mesquite thicket. Excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities are available in the eastern Inyo Mountains. About 90% of the planning unit is rated as having excellent scenic quality. Current activities include camping, sightseeing, hiking, rockhounding, and four wheel drive touring. The Saline Valley, and Grapevine Canyon are popular recreation areas.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral Values. Mines within this planning unit produced talc as late as 1977. The Keynot Mine produced more than \$500,000 in gold, and more than \$2 million in gold that can be extracted using present technology remains on the dump. Active development is reportedly taking place here. Also within this planning unit are 21 copper occurrences, 17 gold occurrences, 18 lead occurrences, 6 zinc occurrences, 5 silver occurrences, 3 iron occurrences, and 18 talc occurrences. Eight patented and 138 unpatented mining claims had been reported by the BLM by December 1979. Most of the planning unit has high to medium potential for new discoveries of metallic and nonmetallic mineralization. In addition the eastern part of the planning unit has been classified as a Potential Geothermal Resource Area, and known valuable for sodium and potassium, by the U.S. Geological Survey.







# PLANNING UNIT **10**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED

 **4.W3,4,5**

 **U,L**

 **8**



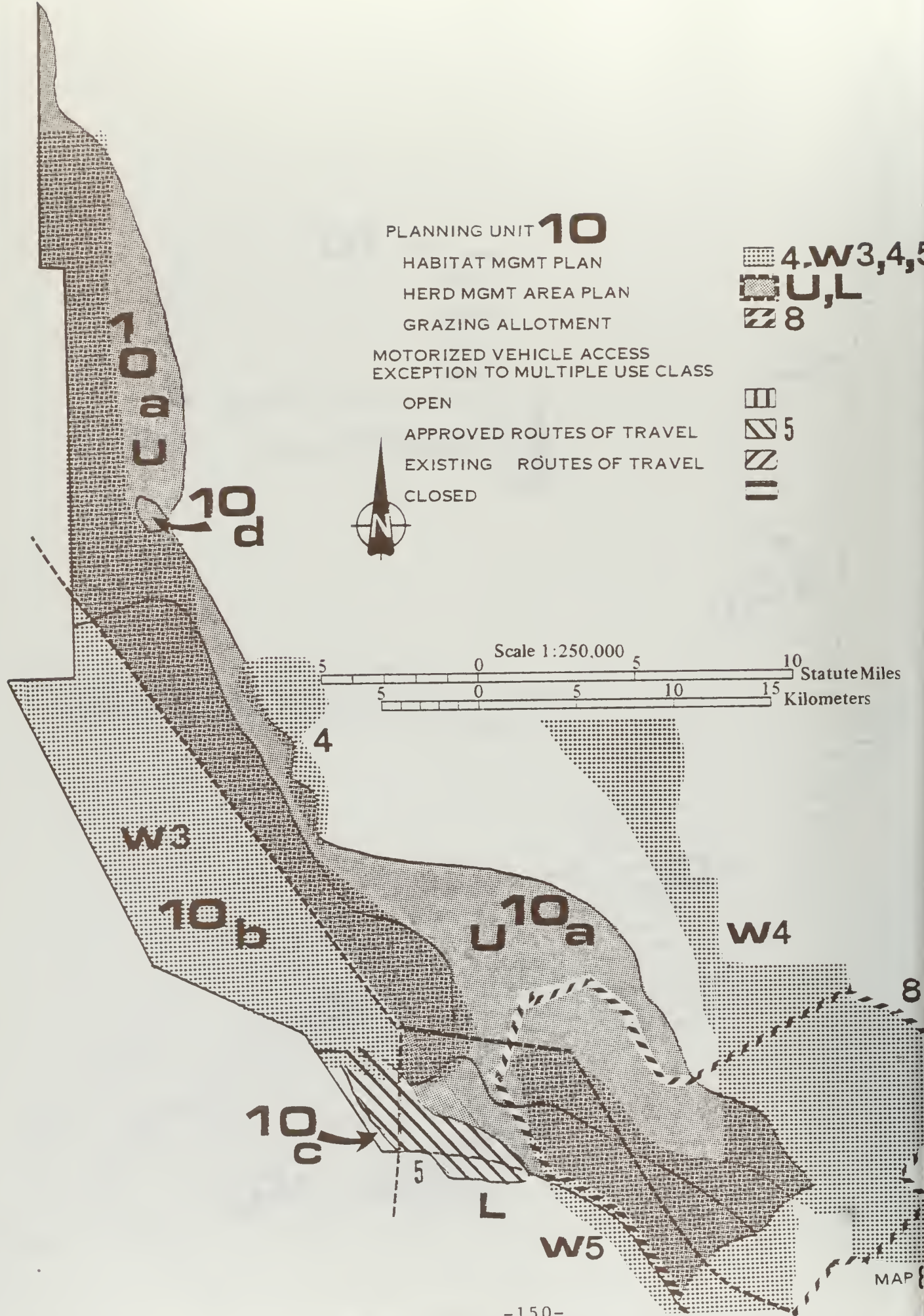
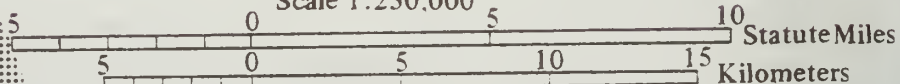
 **5**







Scale 1:250,000



MAP {

## PLANNING UNIT #11

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple-Use Class. This planning unit is recommended as Class C to protect outstanding wilderness characteristics and wildlife, scenic, and Native American values. (11, Map 9)
2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.
3. Wildlife Management. Planning Unit #11 contains a portion of Habitat Management Plan #W-4, Hunter-Cottonwood Mountain/Grapevine Canyon bighorn sheep habitat. The purpose of the HMP is to protect desert bighorn sheep habitat. It is scheduled for completion in one to two years. Immediate implementation includes fencing, and restrictions on camping and vehicle parking areas. Long-term management will include removal of feral burros, changes in grazing practices, and protection of water sources. (W4, Map 10)
4. Grazing Allotments. None.
5. Wild Horses and Burros. Planning Unit #11 contains a portion of the Waucoba/Hunter Mountain Herd Management Area. In the entire HMA, feral burros will be reduced from 1,540 to 444 animals. They will be eliminated from the vicinity of Hunter Mountain. Reductions and eliminations are based on the current range condition, carrying capacity of the burro concentration areas, and the effect of burros on both wildlife and cultural resources. The management of burros in this HMA will be discussed in the Saline-Panamint Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The HMAP is high priority, and will keep feral burros out of mountainous areas, and protect Inyo Mountains salamander habitat. (U, Map 10)
6. Utility Corridors. None.
7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple-use class guidelines.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. This planning unit has an area of recognized high cultural resource sensitivity in the upper reaches of the Panamint Range and is probably associated with the seasonal exploitation of high elevation resources such as pinyon nuts and mountain sheep. Sites are also anticipated along the access routes between Saline and Death Valleys.
2. Native American Values. Native American sources have not indicated that this planning unit contains areas of religious importance. Secular values are unknown at this time.
3. Wildlife Values. The only BLM sensitive species present is the desert bighorn sheep. Other important species include the prairie falcon, golden eagle, and mule deer.
4. Vegetation Values. There are no special vegetation values indicated for



this planning unit.

5. Wilderness Values. The entire planning unit is within Wilderness Study Area #117, Saline Valley. It is rated #1 out of 137.

6. Grazing Values. None.

7. Wild Horse and Burro Values. The general range condition of the Waucoba/Hunter Mountain Herd Management Area in herd concentration areas is poor to fair. Approximately 1,540 feral burros are present.

8. Recreation Values. There are excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities in the Last Chance Range, and in the Dry Mountain and Ubehebe Peak areas. The entire planning unit was rated as having excellent scenic quality.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral Values. A widespread chromium geochemical anomaly and a localized copper anomaly are located in the southern Last Chance Range. The intrusive Hunter Mountain quartz monzonite provides a favorable geologic setting for contact metamorphism and mineralization in the southern Last Chance Range.

#### PLANNING UNIT #12

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

##### 1. Multiple-Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect primitive characteristics and natural and cultural resources while providing for vehicle access for recreation, mineral exploration and development and management of grazing, feral horses, and burros. (12a, Map 9)

b) This portion of the planning unit is recommended as Class C in keeping with its outstanding wilderness qualities and to protect natural and cultural resources. (12b, Map 9)

c) This small section of the Planning Unit is recommended as Class L to provide limited access for mineral exploration and development, while protecting primitive characteristics, as well as natural and cultural values. (12c, Map 9)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #12 contains ACEC #4, Saline Valley. The management objective is to protect wildlife habitat. See Appendix IV. (4, Map 9)

3. Wildlife Management. Planning Unit #12 contains portions of two areas covered by special plans.

The first is the Habitat Management Plan for Saline Valley Dunes, and mesquite thicket, and marsh. The purpose of the HMP is to protect a wildlife habitat that supports breeding bird species, and wintering birds. The area is threatened by burros. The HMP will be completed in two to five years.

Immediate implementation includes fencing, removal of exotic vegetation, and restrictions on camping and vehicle parking areas. (4, Map 10)

The second is the Habitat Management Plan for the Hunter-Cottonwood Mountain/Gràpevine Canyon Bighorn Sheep Habitat. The purpose of the HMP is to protect desert bighorn sheep habitat. It is scheduled for completion in one to two years. Immediate implementation includes fencing, and restrictions on camping and vehicle parking areas. Long-term management will include removal of feral burros, changes in grazing practices, and protection of water sources. (W4, Map 10)

4. Grazing Allotments. Planning Unit #12 contains a portion of the Hunter Mountain Allotment. It will maintain a perennial range type. The authorized use level is 1,105 Animal Unit Months. Seasons of use are winter and spring. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will be prepared to establish the distribution and level of livestock use necessary to maintain and enhance the bighorn sheep population. (8, Map 10)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Planning Unit #12 contains a portion of the Waucoba/Hunter Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA). In the entire HMA feral burros will be reduced from 1,540 to 444 animals. They will be eliminated from the vicinity of Hunter Mountain. Reductions and eliminations are based on the current range condition, carrying capacity of the burro concentration areas, and the effect of burros on both wildlife and cultural resources. The management of burros in this HMA will be discussed in the Saline-Panamint Valley Herd Management Plan (HMAP). The HMAP is high priority, and will keep feral burros out of mountainous areas, and protect Inyo Mountains salamander habitat. The HMAP will be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1981. (U, Map 10)

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. The only exception to the multiple-use class guidelines in Planning Unit #12 is at the Saline Dunes, mesquite thicket, and marsh. Although this region is recommended as Class L, approved routes of travel, the dunes, marsh, and mesquite area will be closed to vehicle travel.

## B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. Extensive areas of high and very high cultural resource sensitivity are included within this planning unit and they are a reflection of the large diversity of resources present in the Saline Valley and the surrounding mountains. Numerous water sources are also present, and were used during both the historic and prehistoric periods.

2. Native American Values. Planning Unit #12 contains one of the most intensively-used, traditionally important areas in the Desert. Resources include a healing area used by the Owens Valley Paiute and Shoshone, pinyon camps, and historic Native American burials.

3. Wildlife Values. The only BLM sensitive species is the desert bighorn sheep. Other important species include golden eagle, Panamint kangaroo rat, Panamint alligator lizard, prairie falcon, yellow warbler, gray shrew,



Panamint chipmunk, and mule deer. The Grapevine Canyon riparian habitat, Saline Valley dunes, and Salt Lake mesquite are all important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation Values. Three unusual plant assemblages and possibly one sensitive plant species are found in Planning Unit #12.

5. Wilderness Values. Planning Unit #12 contains portions of four Wilderness Study Areas. These are as follows:

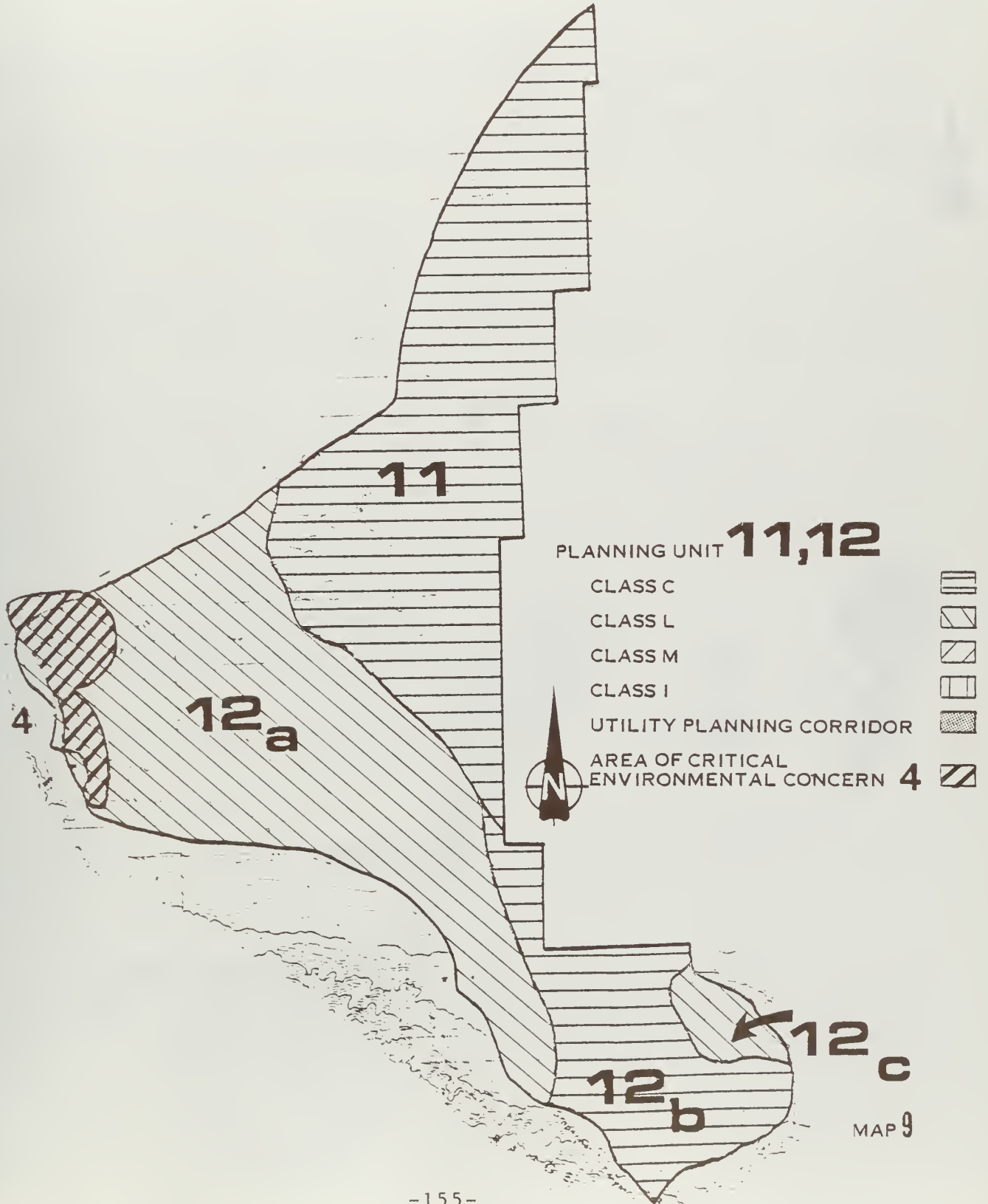
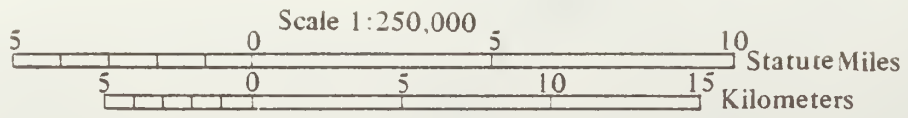
| <u>WSA #</u>        | <u>Ranking (out of 137)</u> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 117 Saline Valley   | 1                           |
| 117A Lower Saline   | 122                         |
| 121 Saline Dunes    | 96                          |
| 123 Hunter Mountain | 2                           |

6. Grazing Values. Hunter Mountain Allotment range condition is fair.

7. Wild Horse and Burro Values. The general range condition of the Waucoba/Hunter Mountain Herd Management Area, in herd concentration areas, is poor to fair. Approximately 1,540 feral burros are present.

8. Recreation Values. There are excellent rockhounding, hiking, and backpacking opportunities in the Last Chance Range. Excellent opportunities for birdwatching and other natural value-oriented activities exist in Saline Valley, and Grapevine Canyon. The entire planning unit received a rating of "excellent" for its scenic quality. Current activities include camping, sightseeing, hiking, four-wheel drive touring, and rockhounding.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral Values. This planning unit has been the site of past wollastonite mining, plus mining of "cottonball" ulexite (a borate) from the surface of the Salt Lake. In the southeast part of the area, there are known reserves of at least 75,000 short tons of wollastonite. The geologic environment of the Lippincott lead mine may extend into this area, where there are 5 reported copper occurrences, two of tungsten, two of uranium, and at least one lead-zinc occurrence. The part of Hunter Mountain in the planning unit has high to speculative metallic and nonmetallic mineral potential. The U.S. Geological Survey has classified part of Saline Valley as a Known Geothermal Resource Area, and a larger part as a Potential Geothermal Resource Area. The area of the Salt Lake is classified by U.S. Geological Survey as valuable for sodium, potassium, and borates. Exploratory drilling by the U.S. Geological Survey Conservation Division encountered at least 300 feet of thenardite (sodium sulfate).



PLANNING UNIT **11,12**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **4,W4** 

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **U**  ENTIRE AREA IN U HERD MGMT AREA

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **8** 

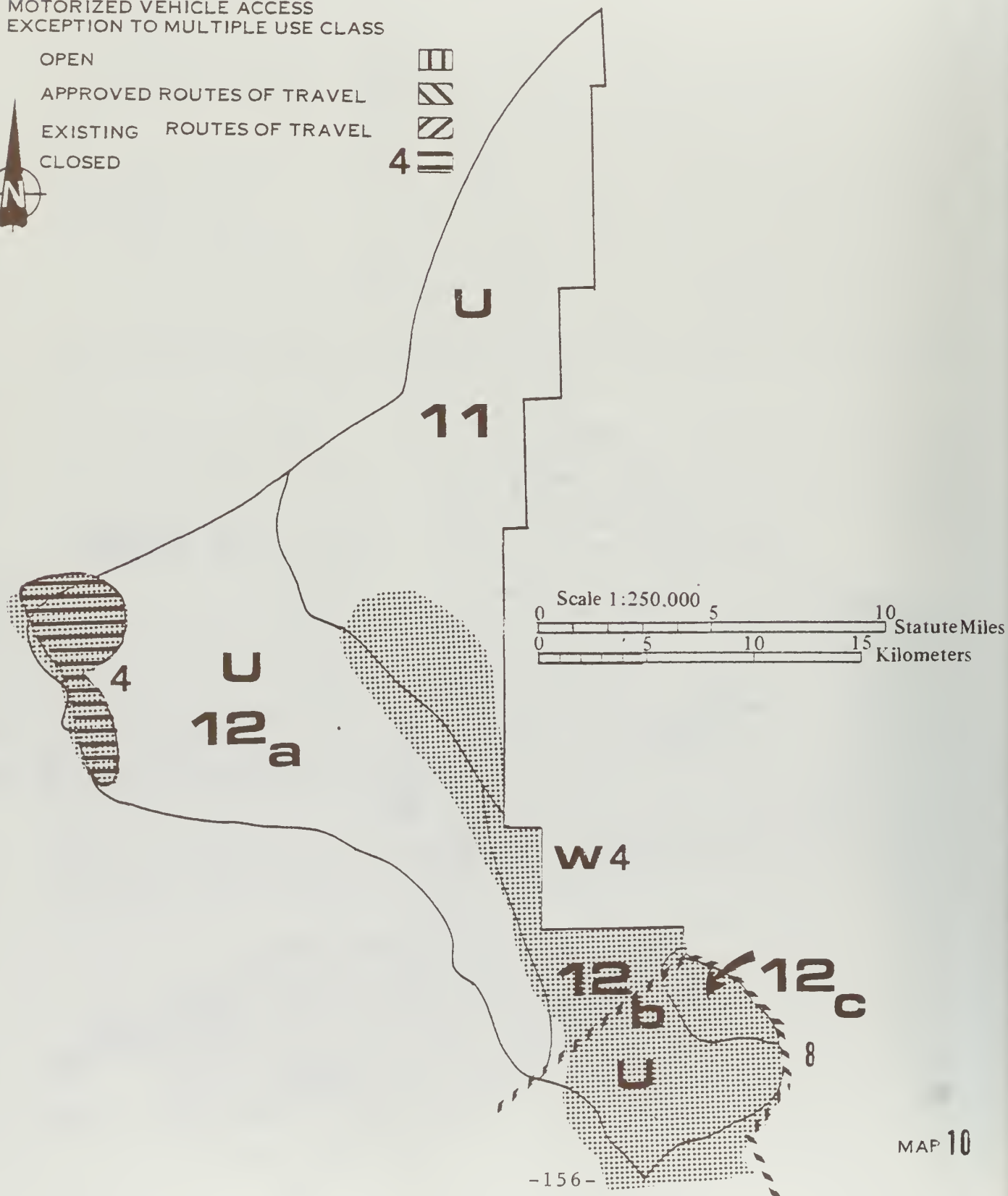
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN 

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL 

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL 

CLOSED **4** 



MAP 10

## PLANNING UNIT #13

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple-Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for extensive mineral exploration and development while mitigating damage to desert resources caused by permitted uses. (13a, Map 11)

b) This area is recommended as Class L to protect sensitive cultural resource values while providing for vehicle access for mineral exploration and burro management. (13b, Map 11)

#### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Lee Flat shadscale scrub community. The management objective is to protect wildlife habitat and its occupants. Completion of the HMP will be within seven years. Long-term management will require changes in livestock grazing practices. (W5, Map 12)

4. Grazing Allotments. Planning Unit #13 contains a portion of the Waucoba/Hunter Mountain Herd Management Area. In the HMA, feral burros will be reduced from 1,540 to 444 animals. They will be eliminated from the vicinity of Hunter Mountain. Reductions and eliminations are based on the current range condition, carrying capacity of the burro in this HMA will be discussed in the Saline-Panamint Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The HMAP is high priority, and will keep feral burros out of mountainous areas, and protect Inyo Mountains salamander habitat. (8, Map 12)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Planning Unit #13 contains a portion of the Lee Flat Herd Management Area. The existing herd of about thirty feral burros will be maintained at its present level. The Saline-Panamint Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) will discuss permanent water developments, and appropriate increases in burro population. The HMAP will be finished by the end of Fiscal Year 1981. (1, Map 12)

#### 6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the multiple-use class guidelines.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. Only a few areas of cultural resource sensitivity/significance are present within this planning unit, most of which are associated with various mining activities. The availability of timber in some sections of the planning unit resulted in the manufacture of charcoal used in ore smelting processes. Because water was scarce, prehistoric indications are rare.

2. Native American Values. Within this planning unit are areas



traditionally subject to seasonal occupation and use by the Owens Valley Shoshone and Paiute. There are highly significant sites of religious importance.

3. Wildlife Values. Important species include the prairie falcon and golden eagle.

4. Vegetation Values. At least one sensitive species, and part of an unusual plant assemblage are in Planning Unit #13A; #13B contains at least one sensitive species.

5. Wilderness Values. One Wilderness Study Area is within the Planning Unit. It is WSA #124, Cerro Gordo, rated #55 out of 137. See Appendix III.

6. Grazing Values. None.

7. Wild Horse and Burro Values. There are about 30 feral burros present in the Lee Flat Herd Management Area and the range condition is good.

8. Recreation Values. There are excellent camping opportunities in the eastern Inyo Mountains, and an excellent rock and mineral collecting area in the vicinity of the Cerro Gordo Mine. About 50% of the Planning Unit received a rating of "excellent" scenic quality.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral Values. This planning unit contains numerous prolific metal producers. Cerro Gordo produced more than 4 million ounces of silver, 62 million pounds of lead, 24 million pounds of zinc, 2,000 ounces of gold and 512,000 pounds of copper. The Santa Rosa mines produced 427,000 ounces of silver, 12 million pounds of lead, 4,000 pounds of zinc and 490,000 pounds of copper. Five other mines in the vicinity produced lesser amounts. The Talc City Mine, produced more than 210,000 tons of talc. This planning unit contains 35 patented mining claims, as reported in the BLM records of December 19, 1979. There were approximately 152 unpatented claims reported at that time. Much of the geologic environment is favorable for the discovery of new metallic or non metallic minerals.

#### PLANNING UNIT #14

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

##### 1. Multiple-Use Class.

a) This portion of Planning Unit #14 is recommended as Class M to provide for mineral exploration and development, and heavy recreational use, while mitigating damage to resources caused by permitted uses. (14a, Map 11)

b) This portion of Planning Unit #14 is recommended as Class C to protect wilderness values and natural and cultural resources. (14b, Map 11)

##### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. Habitat Management Plan - Lee Flat shadscale scrub. The management objective is to protect wildlife habitat, and its occupants.

The HMP will be completed within seven years. Long-term management will require changes in livestock grazing practices. (W5, Map 12)

4. Grazing Allotments. Planning Unit #14 contains a portion of the Hunter Mountain Allotment. It will maintain a perennial range type. The authorized use level is 1,105 Animal Unit Months. Seasons of use are winter and spring. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will be prepared to establish the distribution and level of livestock use necessary to maintain and enhance the bighorn sheep population. (8, Map 12)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Planning Unit #14 contains portions of three Herd Management Areas (HMAs). They are:

Waucoba/Hunter Mountain Herd Management Area, #121. In the entire HMA, feral burros will be reduced from 1,540 to 444 animals. They will be eliminated from the vicinity of Hunter Mountain. Reductions and eliminations are based on carrying capacity of the burro concentration areas, and the effect of burros on both wildlife and cultural resources. The management of burros in this HMA will be discussed in the Saline-Panamint Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The HMAP is high priority and will keep feral burros out of mountainous areas, and protect Inyo Mountains salamander habitat. (U, Map 12)

Lee Flat Herd Management Area. The existing herd of about thirty feral burros will be maintained at its present level. The Saline-Panamint Valley HMAP will discuss permanent water developments, and appropriate increases in Burro population. (L, Map 12)

Panamint Herd Management Area. In this HMA, the population of feral burros will be reduced from 1,270 to 240 animals. The Saline-Panamint Valley HMAP will be developed with the objective of restricting burro use of bighorn sheep range. The HMAP will also provide for the monitoring of the mesquite marsh habitat. (O, Map 12)

6. Utility Corridors. None

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines with respect to motorized vehicle access in Planning Unit #14.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. Only a few scattered areas of known high or very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are present in this planning unit, probably because permanent water was scarce. Those present are associated with resource procurement and trails or routes and they include mostly lithic and rock art sites.

2. Native American Values. There are numerous collection areas containing chia, pinyon, and ritually used blue sage. In addition, there are burial sites identified by the Panamint Shoshone.

3. Wildlife Values. A BLM sensitive species, the desert bighorn sheep is found in Planning Unit #14. Other important species include the Panamint

kangaroo rat, prairie falcon, pallid bat, Panamint chipmunk, and mule deer.

4. Vegetation Values. At least one sensitive plant species, and one unusual plant assemblage are within Planning Unit #14.

5. Wilderness Values. A portion of Wilderness Study Area #127, the Panamint Dunes, is in Planning Unit #14. It is ranked #7 out of 137.

6. Grazing Values. The Hunter Mountain Allotment range condition is fair.

7. Wild Horse and Burro Values. The condition of herd concentration areas within the Waucoba/Hunter Mountain Herd Management Area is poor to fair. There are approximately 1,540 feral burros present.

There are about 30 feral burros present in the Lee Flat Herd Management Area, and the range condition is good.

In the Panamint Herd Management Area, the condition of the concentration areas is poor. There are approximately 1,270 feral burros present.

8. Recreation. There are excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities in the eastern half of the Planning Unit. About 40% of the Planning Unit received a rating of "excellent" scenic quality.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral Values. In this Planning Unit, the Lee Mine produced 44,574 ounces of silver, 22,278 pounds of lead, 98,840 pounds of zinc, 1,592 pounds of copper, and 7 ounces of gold. In addition, gold occurs at the Wonder and Inyo Gold Mines south of the Lee Mine, silver at the Silver Reid Mine north of the Lee Mine, and copper at the Whippoorwill Mine north of Rainbow Canyon.

#### PLANNING UNIT #15

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple-Use Class. Planning Unit #15 is recommended as Class C to protect wilderness characteristics, and natural and cultural resources. (15, Map 11)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. Planning Unit #15 contains part of Habitat Management Plan, Hunter/Cottonwood Mountain/Grapevine Canyon bighorn sheep habitat. The purpose of the HMP is to protect bighorn sheep habitat. It is scheduled for completion in one to two years. Immediate implementation includes fencing, and restrictions on camping and vehicle parking areas. (W4, Map 12)

4. Grazing Allotments. Planning Unit #15 contains a portion of the Hunter Mountain Allotment. It will maintain a perennial range type. Authorized use level is 1,105 Animal Unit Months. Seasons of use are winter and spring. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will be prepared to establish the



distribution, and to maintain and enhance the bighorn sheep population. (W8, Map 12)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Planning Unit #15 contains a portion of the Waucoba/Hunter Mountain Herd Management Area. In the HMA, feral burros will be reduced from 1,540 to 444 animals. They will be eliminated from the vicinity of Hunter Mountain. Reductions and eliminations are based on the current range condition, carrying capacity of the burro concentration areas, and the effect of burros on both wildlife and cultural resources. The management of burros in this HMA will be discussed in the Saline-Panamint Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The HMAP is high priority, and will keep feral burros out of mountainous areas, and protect Inyo Mountains salamander habitat. (U, Map 12)

Also in Planning Unit #15 is a part of the Panamint Herd Management Area. In the HMA, the population of feral burros will be reduced from 1,270 to 240 animals. The Saline-Panamint Valley HMAP will be developed by the end of Fiscal Year 1981 with the objective of restricting burro use of bighorn sheep range. The HMAP will also provide for the monitoring of the mesquite marsh habitat. (O, Map 12)

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class Guidelines.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. The majority of the Planning Unit is included within known areas of high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance. A potential Early Man site is included within this area along with significant archaic period sites. The sites represent lakeside adaptation and temporary encampments.

2. Native American Values. There are many areas associated with rituals that are of contemporary importance. Included are Paiute habitation sites, pinyon collection areas of the Panamint Shoshone, and other sensitive resources including burials.

3. Wildlife Values. The desert bighorn sheep is the only BLM sensitive species present. Other important species include the golden eagle, Panamint kangaroo rat, prairie falcon, Panamint chipmunk, and the mule deer. The Panamint Dunes are especially important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation Values. At least one sensitive plant species is found in Planning Unit #15.

5. Wilderness Values. A portion of Wilderness Study Area #127 the Panamint Dunes, is in Planning Unit #15. It is ranked #7 out of 137.

6. Grazing Values. The Hunter Mountain Allotment range condition is fair.

7. Wild Horse and Burro Values. The condition of animal concentration areas



in the Waucoba/Hunter Mountain Herd Management Area is poor to fair. There are approximately 1,540 feral burros present.

The concentration areas in the Panamint Herd Management Area are in poor condition. The HMA contains about 1,270 feral burros.

8. Recreation Values. There are excellent opportunities for hiking and backpacking in the Panamint Valley, and the Cottonwood Mountain foothills. The eastern margin of the Panamint Valley sometimes contains outstanding floral displays. The entire Planning Unit received a rating of "excellent" for scenic quality, and there are twelve miles of a road (State Highway 190) that is eligible for designation as a State Scenic Highway. Current activities include camping, sightseeing, target shooting, and vehicle play and touring.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral Values. In this Planning Unit, the Big Four mine produced 1,200 ounces of silver, 155,872 pounds of lead, and 117,000 pounds of zinc. Lead is also reported at Lake Hill and west of the dunes. The eastern mountainous part of the Planning Unit has potential for the discovery of additional mineral deposits. The U.S. Geological Survey has classified Panamint Valley as prospectively valuable for sodium and potassium.

# 13 14 15

PLANNING UNIT



CLASS C



CLASS L



CLASS M



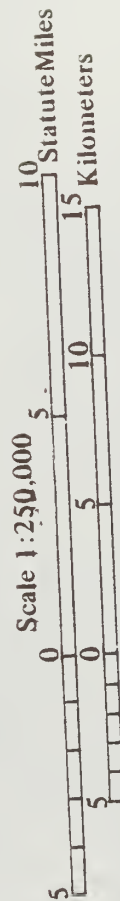
CLASS I



UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR



AREA OF CRITICAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



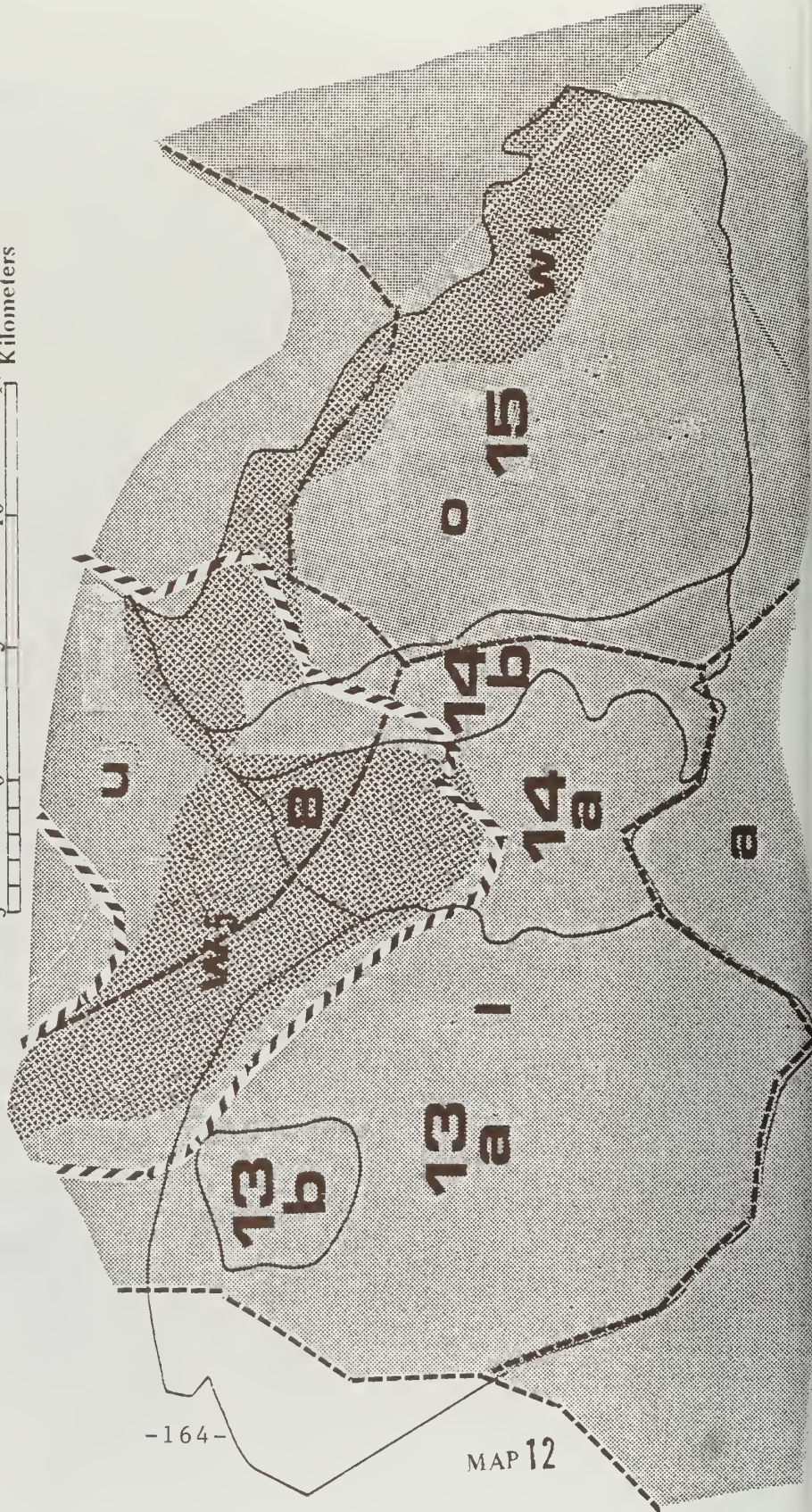


# PLANNING UNIT 13 14 15

- HABITAT MGMT PLAN **w4 5**
- HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **luo**
- GRAZING ALLOTMENT **8**

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

- OPEN
- APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL
- EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL
- CLOSED





PLANNING UNIT #16

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple-Use Class.

a) This portion of Planning Unit #16 is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, vegetative, cultural, and Native American resources while providing for vehicle access for management of wild horses and burros and for mineral exploration. (16a, Map 13)

b) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for vehicle access for recreation and mineral exploration while allowing for mitigation of damage to desert resources (especially Native American values) by permitted uses. (16b, Map 13)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. No Habitat Management Plans.

4. Grazing Allotments. The Lacey-Cactus-McCloud Grazing Allotment will maintain a perennial designation, and the current authorized use level of 4,873 Animal Unit Months. The seasons of use are winter and spring. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will be designed to protect the habitat of the Inyo brown towhee, and will be developed in cooperation with the Naval Weapons Center. (9, Map 14)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Planning Unit #16 contains a portion of the Centennial Herd Management Area. It will reduce the number of wild horses from 600 to 168, and the number of feral burros from 3,684 to 1,137. The Centennial Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) will be developed in close cooperation with the Naval Weapons Center. The HMAP will include the removal of wild horses and burros from bighorn sheep habitat in the Argus Range, and from Inyo brown towhee areas. The HMAP is high priority and will be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1981. (A, Map 14)

6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor A passes along the eastern edge of Planning Unit #16. (A, Map 13)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the Multiple-Use Class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. Significant portions of this Planning Unit are included within known areas of high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance. These resource areas are associated with the permanent water sources, the presumed higher shorelines of Owens Lake, and various vegetal and natural resources. The historic remains are associated with mineral exploration and development.

2. Native American Values. Planning Unit #16 contains one of the most intensely used, and traditionally important areas in the California Desert.



There is a healing area used by the Owens Valley Paiute and Shoshone, pinyon camps, seasonal occupation and collection areas, temporary camps, historic Native American burials, and many sacred sites.

5. Wildlife Values. The only BLM sensitive species present is the desert bighorn sheep. The only other significant species are the mule deer and golden eagle. Black Springs is particularly important to wildlife.

4. Vegetation Values. One unusual plant assemblage is found in Planning Unit #16.

5. Wilderness Values. There are two Wilderness Study Areas in Planning Unit #16. WSA #130, the North Coso Range, is ranked #134 out of 137. WSA #131, the Coso Range, is #121 out of 137.

6. Grazing Values. The Lacey-Cactus-McCloud Allotment range condition is fair.

7. Wild Horse and Burro Values. Concentration areas within the Centennial Herd Management Area are in poor to fair condition. There are about 600 wild horses, and 3,684 burros present.

8. Recreation Values. There are excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities in canyons near Lower Centennial Flat, and excellent day hiking opportunities in the foothills above Haiwee reservoir. The Planning Unit contains about twenty miles of road (State Highway 190) eligible for designation as a State Scenic Route. Current activities include sightseeing, camping, hiking, and motorcycle and four-wheel drive free play and touring. The Olancho area, and Dirty Socks pool are frequently visited.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral Values. The eastern corner of this Planning Unit contains an active intermittent producer of a specialty clay with rare specific properties, five reported uranium occurrences, an iron occurrence, a perlite occurrence, a molybdenum occurrence, and a tungsten occurrence. The area west of Joshua Flat is currently being explored for uranium by at least three companies. Small past production of uranium is reported from this area. The southwest part of this Planning Unit has a potentially favorable environment for pumice. This Planning Unit contains in excess of 800 unpatented mining claims, which were reported by the BLM as of December 19, 1979.

#### PLANNING UNIT #17

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

##### 1. Multiple-Use Classes.

a) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for geothermal energy development, mineral exploration and development, and vehicle access for recreational purposes. Provision will be made for protection of desert resources, and mitigation of impacts of permitted uses. (17a, Map 13)

b) This area is recommended as Class L to protect cultural resources. (17b, Map 13)

c) This area is recommended Class C to protect wilderness qualities, wildlife, soils, cultural, and Native American values. (17c, Map 13)

d) This area is recommended Class L to protect wildlife, cultural resources and Native American values, while providing vehicle access for mineral exploration, and management of grazing and wild horses and burros. (17d, Map 13)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. There are two Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in Planning Unit #17.

ACEC #7, Rose Spring, is proposed to protect prehistoric values; (7, Map 13)

ACEC #10, Fossil Falls, is also proposed to protect prehistoric values. (10, Map 13).

See Appendix IV.

3. Wildlife Management. Planning Unit #17 contains portions of two special wildlife management plans.

Habitat Management Plan #W-11, Rose Valley Mohave ground squirrel habitat, will provide protection for this state-listed "rare" species. The HMP is scheduled for completion in two to five years. (W11, Map 14)

Habitat Management Plan #W-12, East Sierra Canyons, will protect valuable wildlife habitat. The HMP is scheduled for completion in one to two years. Immediate implementation entails controlling vehicle use, fencing, cooperative agreements with other landholders, increase in field personnel, and restrictions on camping and vehicle parking areas. Long-term implementation includes changes in grazing practices, and protection of water sources. (W12, Map 14)

4. Grazing Allotments. Planning Unit #17 contains portions of three grazing allotments. They are:

The Olancho Common Allotment will be maintained as a perennial allotment, and the authorized use level will remain at 606 Animal Unit Months. Season of use is summer only. The Allotment Management Plan is medium priority. (10, Map 14)

The Tunawee Common Allotment will maintain a perennial designation with a reduction in authorized use from 1,954 to 1,540 Animal Unit Months. Season of use is spring. The Allotment Management Plan is medium priority. (11, Map 14)

Walker Pass Common. The current perennial designation will be changed to ephemeral/perennial, with a reduction in the level of authorized use from 7,242 to 3,368 Animal Unit Months. Additional ephemeral use will be determined annually. Seasons of use are winter, spring, and summer. A high priority

Allotment Management Plan will be developed to include fencing at Indian Wells, and the Sand Canyon riparian habitat. (19, Map 14)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Planning Unit #17 contains a portion of the Centennial Herd Management Area. It will reduce the number of wild horses from 600 to 168, and the number of feral burros from 3,684 to 1,137. The Centennial Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) will be developed in close cooperation with the Naval Weapons Center. The HMAP will include the removal of wild horses and burros from bighorn sheep habitat in the Argus Range, and from Inyo brown towhee areas. The HMAP is high priority and will be completed by Fiscal Year 1981. (A, Map 14)

6. Utility Corridors. Planning Unit #17 contains a portion of Utility Corridor A. It runs along an existing transportation route (U.S. Highway 395), and is a portion of a regional network to link power sources with power consumption areas. (A, Map 13)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to multiple-use class guidelines.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. Large areas of recognized high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are located within Planning Unit #17. They are associated with the permanent water sources along the base of the Sierra Nevada. Although there is a range of site types represented from the most simple to the most complex, because of the large number of water sources there are a relatively high percentage of village sites.

2. Native American Values. Numerous Kawaiisu village sites, medicinal, ritual and secular collection areas, and many places of religious importance are found here. Initiation sites and burials make the area very sensitive.

3. Wildlife Values. The Mohave ground squirrel is the only State or Federally listed species known to inhabit Planning Unit #17, although there is potential for the Tehachapi slender salamander. The desert bighorn sheep is the only BLM sensitive species. Other important species include the golden eagle, osprey, prairie falcon, Townsend's big-eared bat, chisel-toothed kangaroo rat, and mule deer.

4. Vegetation Values. At least one sensitive plant species is found within Planning Unit #17.

5. Wilderness Values. None.

6. Grazing Values. Olancho Common Allotment range condition is good. Tunawee Common Allotment range condition is fair.

7. Wild Horse and Burro Values. Animal concentration areas within the Centennial Herd Management Area are in poor to fair condition. There are about 600 wild horses and 3,684 feral burros present.

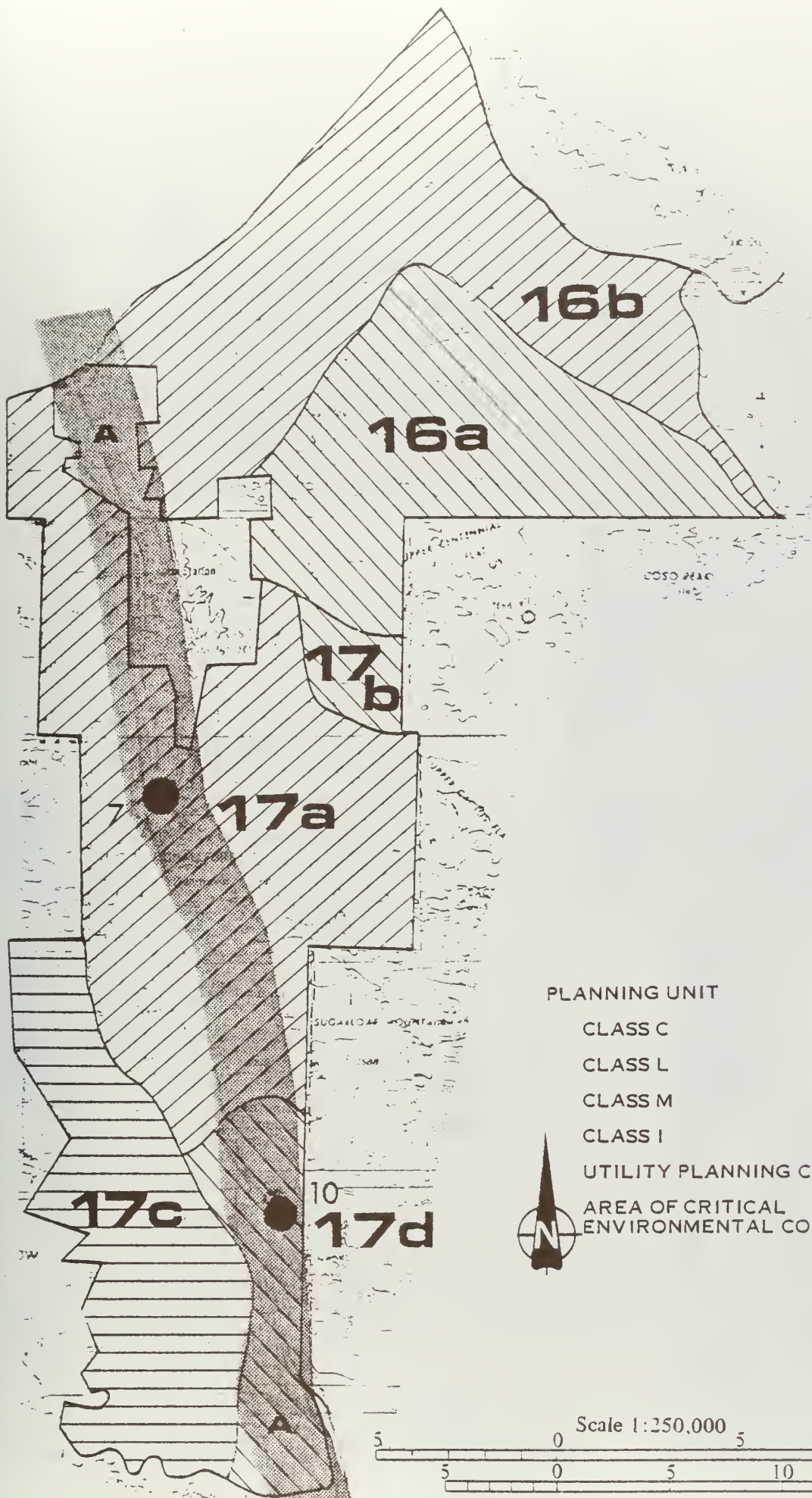
8. Recreation Values. Excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities exist

in the foothills above the Haiwee Reservoir, and in most drainages in the eastern Sierra. The Sierra foothills contain excellent hunting opportunities. There are two excellent interpretive sites - Fossil Falls, and the glacial Owens River bed. The Planning Unit contains twenty-five miles of a road (U.S. Highway 395) that is eligible for designation as a State Scenic Route. Current major activities include picnicking, sightseeing, hiking, and rock climbing.

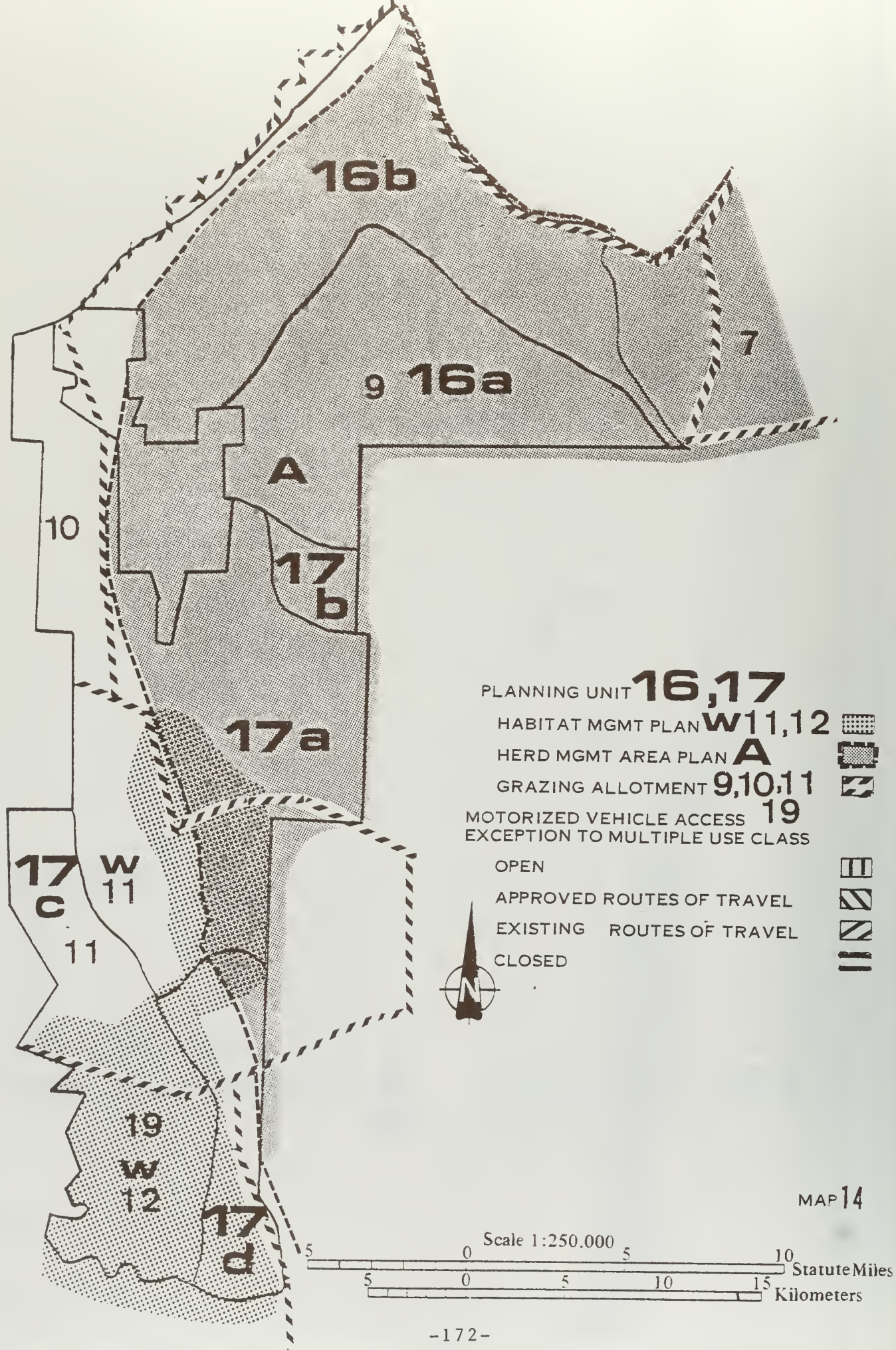
9. Geology-Energy-Mineral Values. This Planning Unit contains 7 past producers of pumice, 4 past producers of sand and gravel, a past feldspar producer, and a past clay producer. Also reported are three pumice occurrences, and one clay occurrence. The geologic environment is favorable for undiscovered clay and pumice occurrences. Also reported are four uranium occurrences. The central part of Planning Unit #17 is currently being actively explored for uranium by at least three companies. The U.S. Geological Survey has classified the south part of this Planning Unit as a Known Geothermal Resource Area bounded on the west by a Potential Geothermal Resource Area. This Planning Unit contains in excess of 800 unpatented mining claims, which were reported by the BLM as of December, 1979.











## PLANNING UNIT #18

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple-Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, soils, cultural resources, and Native American values, while providing vehicle access for management of existing grazing, recreation and mineral exploration. (18a, Map 15)

b) This area is recommended Class C to protect wilderness qualities and natural and cultural resources. (18b, Map 15)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #18 contains ACEC #11, Sand Canyon. Its purpose is to protect wildlife habitat. See Appendix IV. (11, Map 16)

3. Wildlife Management. The Habitat Management Plan for the East Sierra Canyons, will protect valuable wildlife habitat. The HMP is scheduled for completion in one to two years. Immediate implementation entails controlling vehicle use, fencing, cooperative agreements with other landholders, increase in field personnel, and restrictions on camping and vehicle parking areas. Long-term implementation includes changes in grazing practices and protection of water sources. (W12, Map 16)

4. Grazing Allotments. Walker Pass Common. The current perennial designation will be changed to ephemeral/perennial, with a reduction in the level of authorized use from 7,242 to 3,368 Animal Unit Months. Additional ephemeral use will be determined annually. Seasons of use are winter, spring, and summer. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will be developed to include fencing at Indian Wells, and the Sand Canyon riparian habitat. (19, Map 16)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Area Plans.

6. Utility Corridors. Planning Unit #18 contains a portion of Utility Corridor A. It is along an existing transportation route (U.S. Highway 395), and is a portion of a regional network to link power sources with power consumption areas. (A, Map 15)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the Multiple-Use Class Guidelines.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. The whole base of the Sierra Nevada is an extremely sensitive/significant archaeological area because of the presence of permanent water. These areas also have other natural resources of importance to past peoples, and the canyons provide access to the higher elevations, where pinyon and game were available.

2. Native American Values. Numerous Kawaiisu village sites, medicinal,



ritual, and secular collection areas, and many places of religious importance are in Planning Unit #18. Initiation sites and burials make the area very sensitive.

3. Wildlife Values. The only State or Federally listed species found in Planning Unit #18 is the Mohave ground squirrel, although the potential exists for the Tehachapi slender salamander. Other important species include the golden eagle, yellow-eared pocket mouse, prairie falcon, yellow-breasted chat, yellow warbler, and mule deer. The eastern Sierra canyons are particularly important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation Values. At least one sensitive plant species, and several unusual plant assemblages occur within Planning Unit #18.

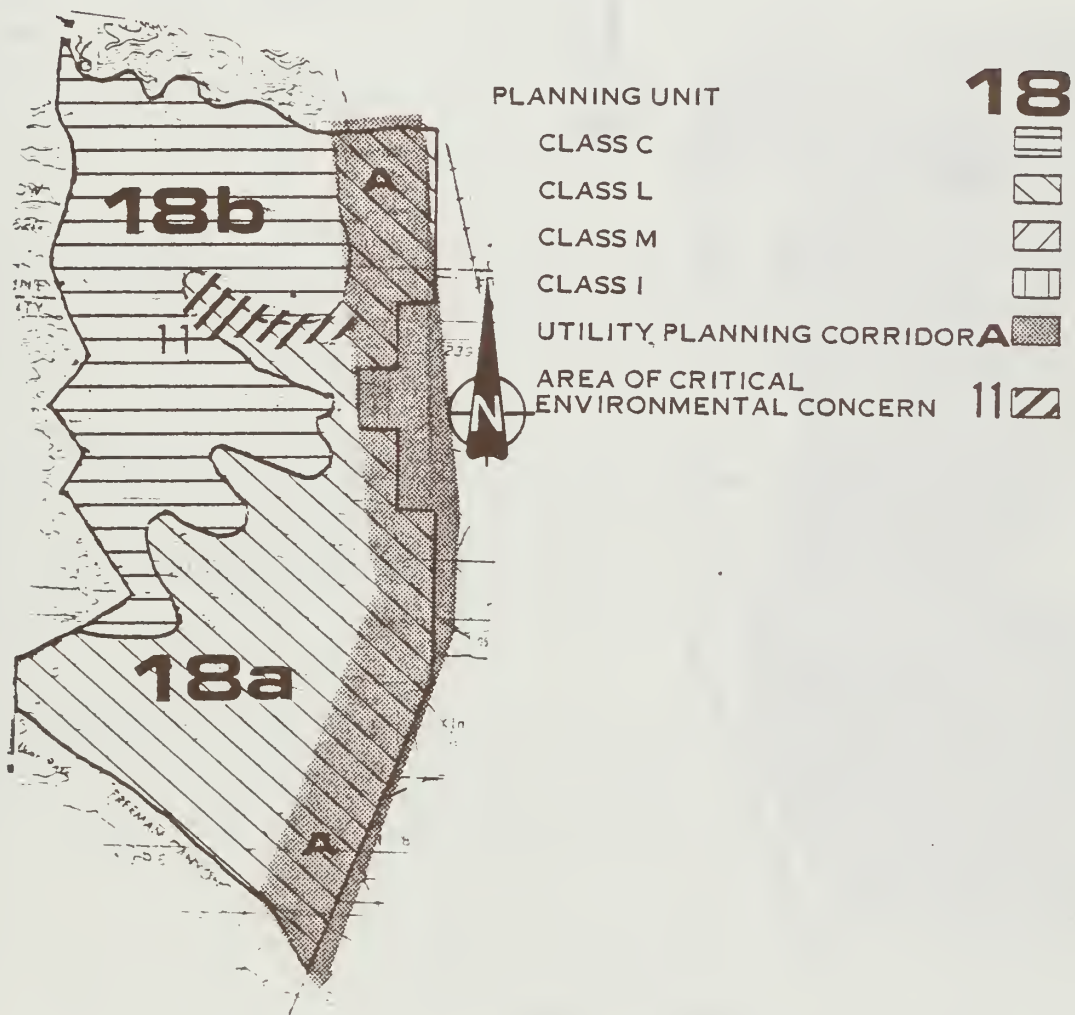
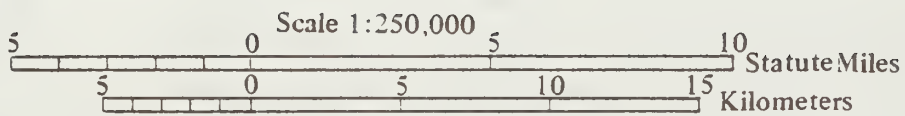
5. Wilderness Values. None.

6. Grazing Values. The Walker Pass Common Allotment range condition is fair.

7. Wild Horse and Burro Values. None.

8. Recreation Values. There are excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities in the eastern Sierra Canyons, along with excellent hunting opportunities. There are about twenty miles of road (U.S. Highway 395) eligible for designation as a State Scenic Route. There are frequently outstanding floral displays in and near Sandy and Indian Wells Canyons. Current activities include camping, picnicking, hiking, four-wheel drive and motorcycle touring, hunting, and sky-diving.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral Values. This Planning Unit contains one current sand and gravel site, five reported tungsten occurrences, and one reported gold occurrence. The High Peak mine, in the southeast part, produced in excess of 50 tons of tungsten ore. There are about 90 unpatented mining claims reported in this Planning Unit, which were reported by the BLM as of December 19, 1979.



PLANNING UNIT **18**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **w12**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **19**

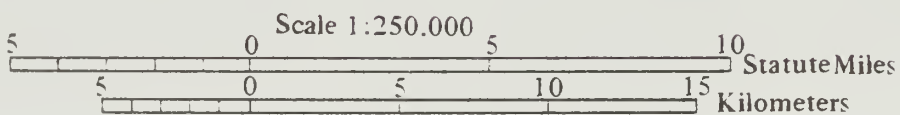
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



PLANNING UNIT #19

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple-Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, sensitive soils, vegetation, cultural resources, and Native American values. This multiple-use designation will also provide for vehicle access for recreation, grazing management, and mineral exploration and development. (19a, Map 17)

b) This area (Dove Springs) is recommended Class I to allow unlimited access for recreational vehicles. (19b, Map 17)

c) This area (Jawbone Canyon) is recommended Class I to allow unlimited access for recreational vehicles. (19c, Map 17)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #19 contains ACEC #20, the Jawbone-Butterbread Area. Management objectives are to protect wildlife (raptors), and Native American values. See Appendix IV. (20, Map 17)

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Lone Tree Canyon. The objective is to manage this area in such a way as to permit the successful reintroduction of "California" bighorn sheep into the area. Completion of the plan will be within 10 years. Long-term management will require land acquisition. (W-18, Map 18)

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Sierra-Mojave- Tehachapi Ecotone. The objective is to manage this area to ensure protection of the wildlife habitat and its occupants, especially the riparian areas and such species as the yellow-eared pocket mouse, golden eagle, and prairie falcon. This plan is will be completed within five years. Long-term management will require changes in livestock grazing practices and protection of water sources. (20, Map 18)

4. Grazing Allotments. Rudnick Common Allotment. This plan will change the perennial designation to ephemeral/perennial with a reduction in the authorized use level from 26,210 to 6,218 Animal Unit Months. Additional ephemeral authorization will be determined annually. Season of use is year-round. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will be developed to include the protection and monitoring of riparian habitats. (17, Map 18)

Hansen Common Allotment. The perennial designation will be changed to ephemeral/perennial. The current authorized use level of 354 Animal Unit Months will remain the same. The seasons of use are spring, summer, and fall. The Allotment Management Plan is medium priority. (21, Map 18)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Areas.

6. Utility Corridors. Planning Unit #19 contains a portion of Utility Corridor A, alongside U. S. Highway 395. (A, Map 17)



7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the Multiple-Use Class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. Extensive portions of Planning Unit #19 are within areas of known high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance. As with surrounding Planning Units to the north, the area is characterized by numerous permanent water sources that have plenty of natural resources and also provide access to higher elevations. The sites in the Planning Unit range from the simplest to the most complex, although a relatively higher number are in the latter category.

2. Native American Values. There are numerous sacred and secular sites within the Planning Unit including healing areas, Kawaiisu collection areas, and areas of contemporary use by the Owens Vally Paiute and Shoshone.

3. Wildlife Values. The only State or Federally listed species found in Planning Unit #18 is the Mohave ground squirrel, although the potential exists for the Tehachapi slender salamander. BLM sensitive species include the desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep. Other Important species include the golden eagle, yellow-eared pocket mouse, prairie falcon, and mule deer. The eastern Sierra canyons are particularly important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation Values. Three unusual plant assemblages, and at least three sensitive plant species can be found in Planning Unit #19.

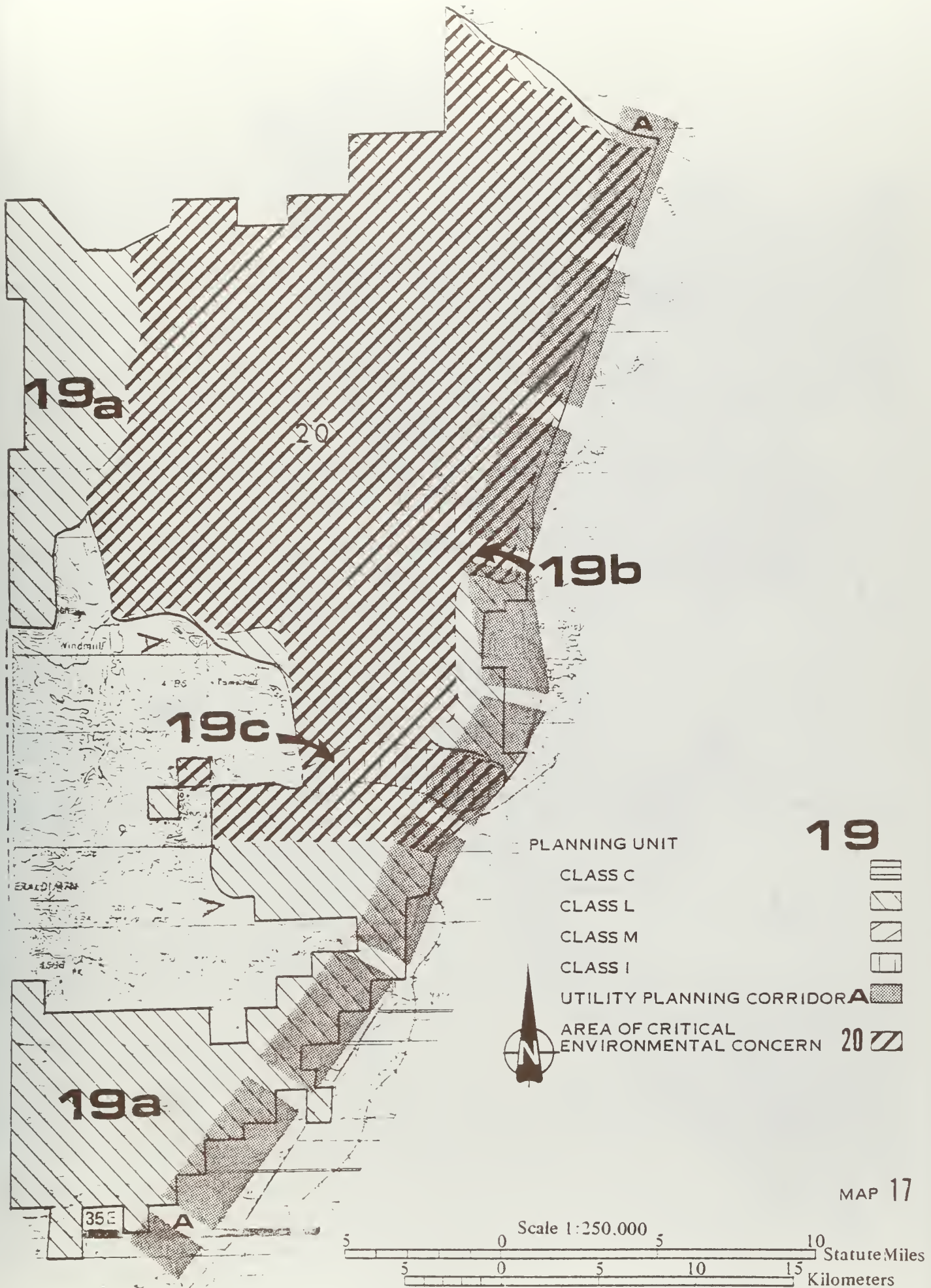
5. Wilderness Values. None.

6. Grazing Values. The Rudnick Common Allotment range condition is fair. The Hansen Common Allotment range condition is good.

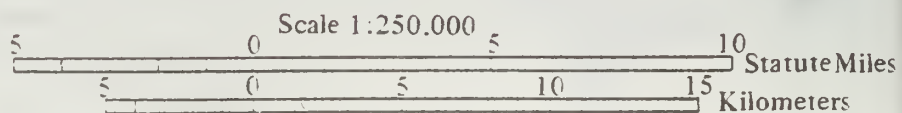
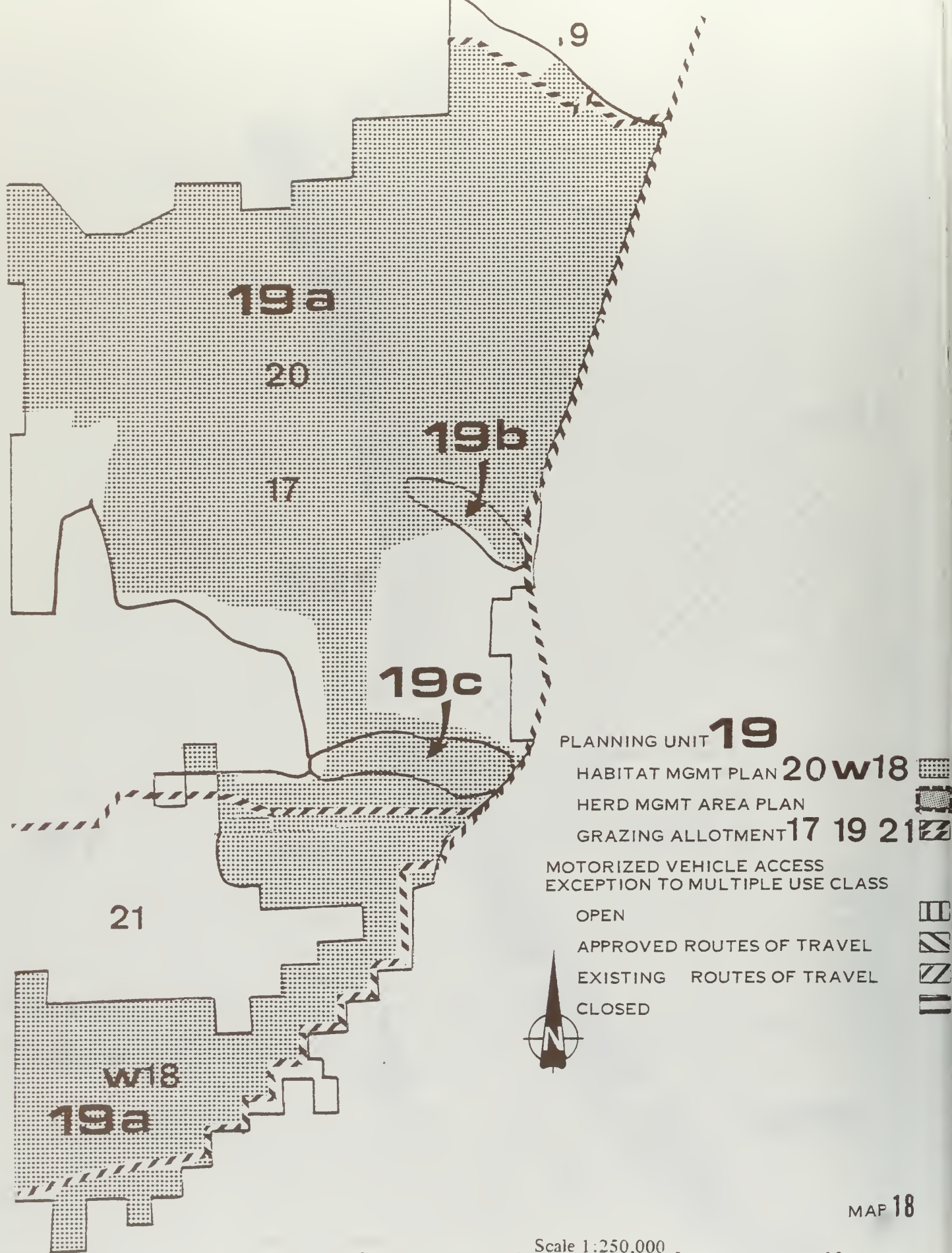
7. Wild Horse and Burro Values. No Herd Management Area Plans.

8. Recreation Values. Excellent hiking and birdwatching opportunities can be found in upper Jawbone Canyon, lower Butterbread Canyon, and in the Cache Peak/Lone Tree Canyon area. There are excellent hunting opportunities in the eastern Sierra canyons. The Planning Unit contains fifteen miles of a road (State Highway 14) that is eligible for designation as a State Scenic Route. Current activities in Planning Unit #19 include vehicular free play and touring, sightseeing, camping, hiking, picnicking, birdwatching, sky diving, hunting, target shooting, rock climbing, and education and research. Jawbone and Dove Springs Canyons are heavily used for vehicle free play, while other canyons are popular for more traditional recreation activities.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral Values. In this Planning Unit are reported 13 gold occurrences, three antimony occurrences, 6 uranium occurrences, 3 tungsten occurrences, a clay producer, plus occurrences (some with past production) of roofing granules, rock, clay, and silica-quartzite. The Planning Unit contains 5 patented mining claims, and about 139 unpatented mining claims. The eastern and southern parts of the Planning Unit have been classified by U.S. Geological Survey as prospectively valuable for oil and gas.







## PLANNING UNIT #20

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple-Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to provide protection for wildlife, cultural, and Native American values, while allowing limited vehicle access for management of ephemeral grazing, mineral exploration and development, and recreation. (20a, Map 19)

b) This area is recommended as Class C. This designation will provide for primitive recreational activities while protecting wilderness values and cultural resources. (20b, Map 19)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #20 contains ACEC #21, Last Chance Canyon. The management objective is to protect prehistoric and historic values. See Appendix IV. (21, Map 19)

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for western Mojave Desert crucial habitats to protect and enhance the desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel habitats. Completion of the plan is to be within five years. Long-term management of this area will require land acquisition and changes in livestock grazing practices. (W-21, Map 20)

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Red Mountains/El Paso Mountains. The management objective is to manage this area to protect and enhance wildlife resources, especially the raptor species which breed in the area. Completion of the plan is to be within five years. (W-20, Map 20)

4. Grazing Allotments. Cantil Common Allotment. It will remain as an ephemeral designation. The Allotment Management Plan is high priority, and will be developed to include the "Ephemeral Sheep Guidelines for Desert Tortoise Habitat." See Appendix XIII. (14, Map 20)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Area Plans.

6. Utility Corridors. Planning Unit #20 contains a portion of Utility Corridor A, along Highway 395. (A, Map 19)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Values. The greater part of the Planning Unit is covered by one large area of known very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance, which has a very high diversity and density of cultural resource sites. Many activities are represented including historical mining.

2. Native American Values. Kawaiisu village sites, and burials have been identified within the Planning Unit, along with numerous collection areas, and ritual sites.



3. Wildlife Values. The only State or Federally listed species found in Planning Unit #18 is the Mohave ground squirrel. BLM sensitive species include the desert tortoise and the bighorn sheep. Other important species include the golden eagle, prairie falcon, Tehachapi slender salamander, yellow-eared pocket mouse, and mule deer.

4. Vegetation Values. There are at least three sensitive plant species known to occur within Planning Unit #20.

5. Wilderness Values. None.

6. Grazing Values. The Cantil Common Allotment range condition is fair.

7. Wild Horse and Burro Values. No Herd Management Area Plans.

8. Recreation Values. The El Paso Mountains contain excellent opportunities for hunting, and rock and mineral collecting. There are four sites within the Planning Unit with excellent potential for interpretation and education: Burro Schmidt's Tunnel, the El Paso Mountains, the Garlock Fault, and the Goler Graben. Major activities include hunting, hobby prospecting, shooting, camping, and vehicle free play and touring. The El Paso Mountains region is heavily used for a variety of activities.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral Values. Bentonite clay is being produced from the El Paso Mountains and gold, copper, wollastonite, pumice, and coal have been produced. Exploration and development of gold and clay deposits is continuing. Fluorite, manganese, uranium, perlite, silica, gemstones, bentonite, clay, and zeolites also occur here. Sand and gravel have been removed from eight sites, one of which is still in use. The U.S. Geological Survey has classified most of this Planning Unit as prospectively valuable for oil, gas, and sodium. Approximately 150 unpatented claims and 6 unpatented claims have been recorded in this area.

PLANNING UNIT

CLASS C

CLASS L

CLASS M

CLASS I

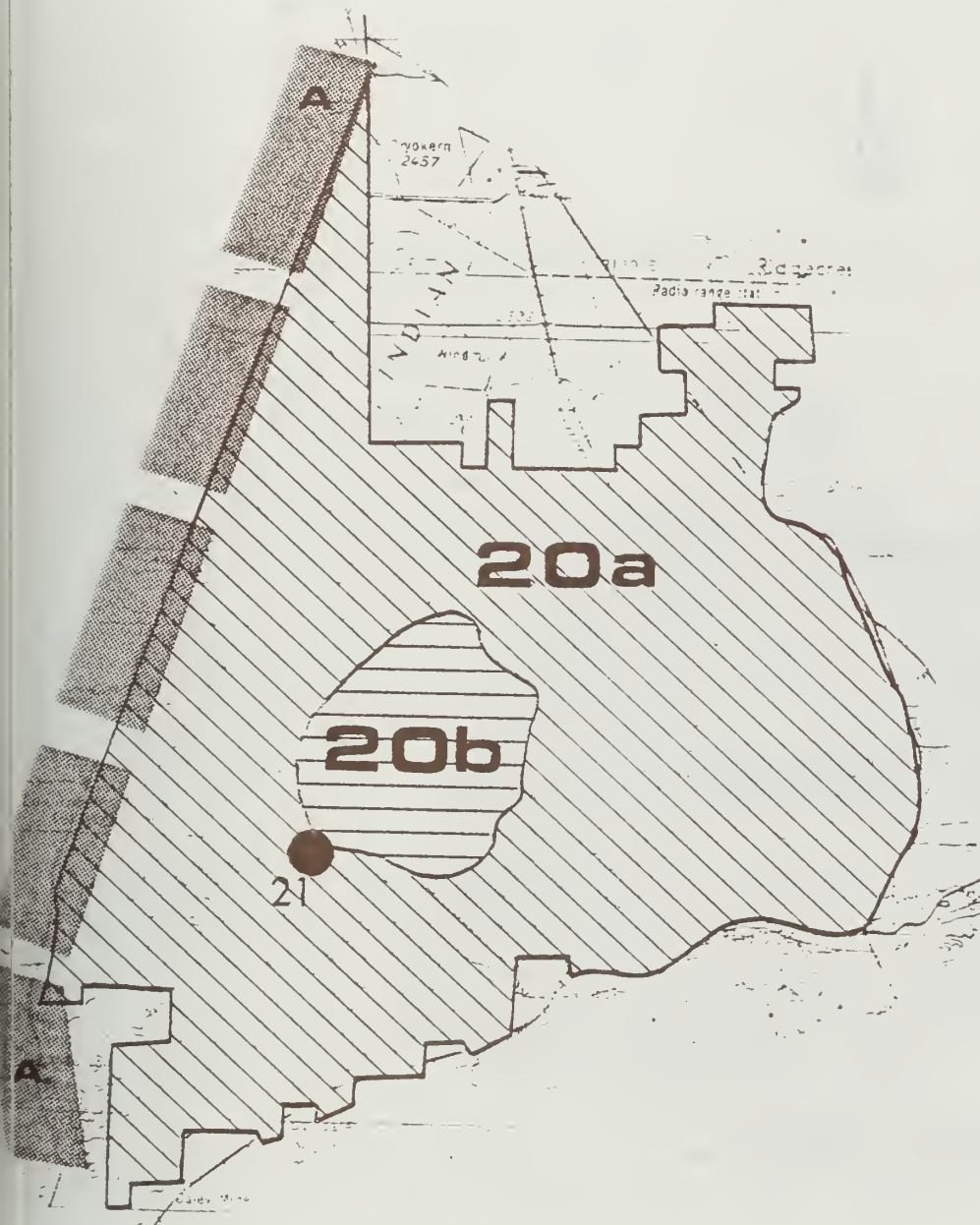
UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

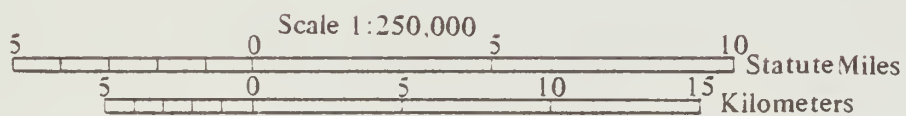
20



21



MAP 19



PLANNING UNIT **20**  
 HABITAT MGMT PLAN **W20,21**  
 HERD MGMT AREA PLAN  
 GRAZING ALLOTMENT **14** \*

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
 EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

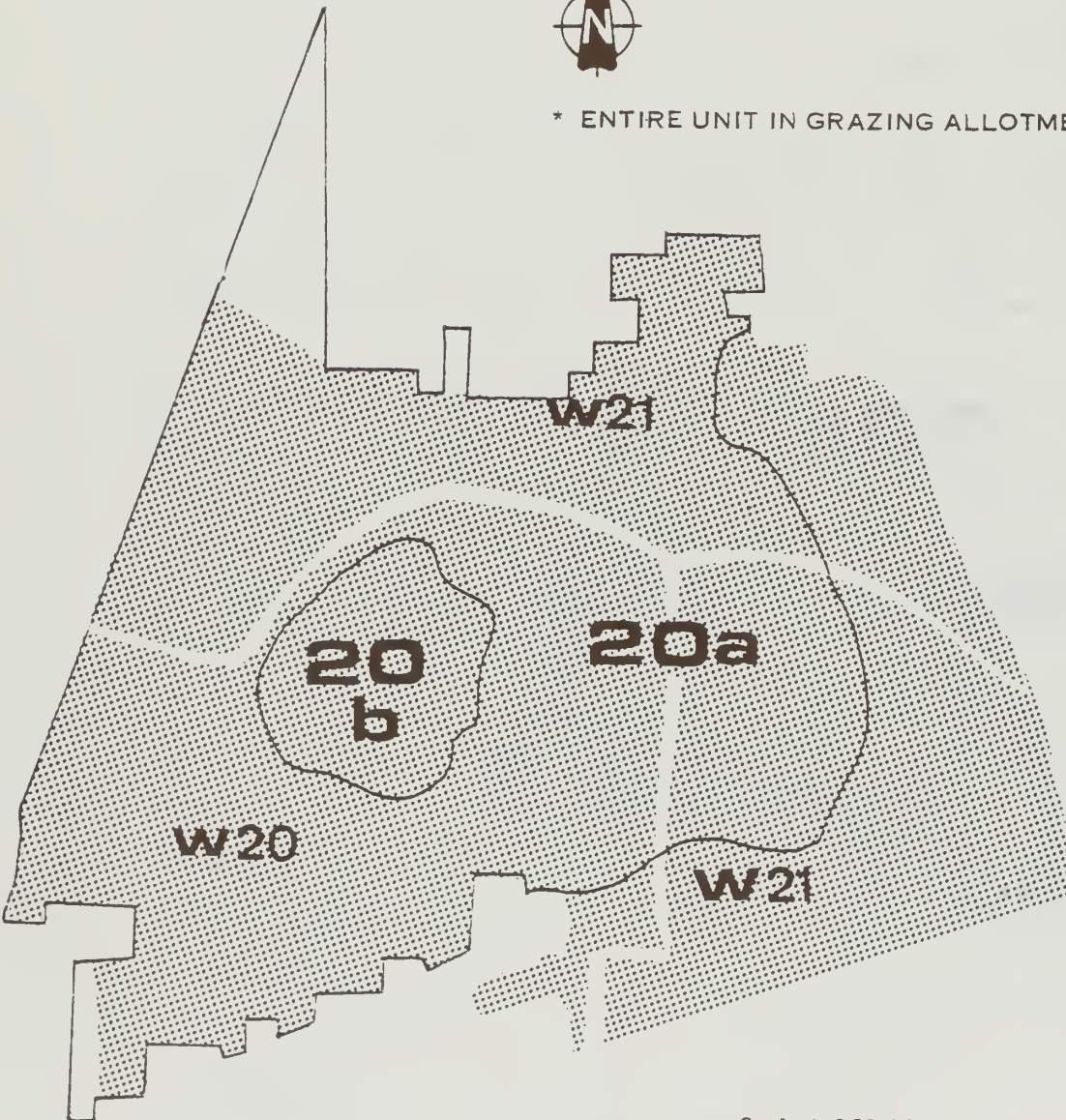
APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

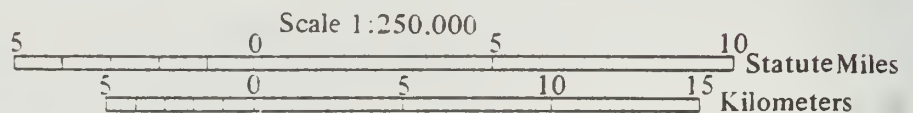
CLOSED



\* ENTIRE UNIT IN GRAZING ALLOTMENT 14



MAP **20**





## PLANNING UNIT #21

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for vehicle access for recreation, grazing management, and mineral exploration and development. Due to the presence of threatened wildlife species in this area, the recreation activity plan for the area will have a high priority so that off road vehicle management can be explicitly detailed (21a, Map 21).

b) This area is recommended as Class I because of present and proposed mining operations (21b, Map 21).

c) This area is recommended as Class L to protect the riparian habitat and wildlife at the marsh on the southwest side of Koehn Lake (21c, Map 21).

#### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be proposed for Koehn Lake. The management objective is to manage this area to protect wildlife resources, especially the rare marsh association, and water along the western edge of the lake which supports water fowl. The plan has been started and will be completed within two years. Long-term management of this area will require protection of the water sources (W-19, Map 22).

Habitat Management Plan for Western Mojave Desert crucial habitats. The management objective is to protect and enhance crucial habitats located in the western portion of the Mojave Desert; especially those for the desert tortoise, and the Mohave ground squirrel. Completion of the plan is to be within five years. Long-term management of this area will require land acquisition and changes in livestock grazing practices.

4. Grazing Allotments. Cantil Common Allotment. It will remain as an ephemeral designation. The Allotment Management Plan is a high priority, and will be developed to include the "Ephemeral Sheep Guidelines for Desert Tortoise Habitat." See Appendix XIII.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No HMAP.

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. The only exception to the Multiple Use Class guidelines for vehicle access at Koehn Lake. This area is recommended for Class I (mining). Actual management will be for existing routes of travel.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED.

1. Cultural. Areas of identified high and very high cultural resource sensitivity are scattered throughout this Planning Unit. These represent various prehistoric procurement activities and historic mining. The prehistoric remains are predicted to represent mostly lakeside adaptations.



2. Native American. Native American consultants identified an aboriginal trading center used by the Kawaiisu, Chemehuevi, Mohave, and Paiute. There is also a mesquite collection area.

3. Wildlife. There are two State-listed species, the Inyo Brown Towhee (endangered), and the Mohave ground squirrel (rare). The only BLM sensitive species is the desert bighorn sheep. Other significant species include the golden eagle, prairie falcon, Townsend's big-eared bat, and the chisel-toothed kangaroo rat. The riparian areas in the Argus Range are particularly important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation. Planning Unit #21 contains one unusual plant assemblage.

5. Wilderness. None.

6. Grazing. Cantil Common Allotment - range condition is fair.

7. Wild Horse and Burro. No HMAP.

8. Recreation. The Rand Mountains have excellent rock and mineral collecting potential. The town of Randsburg is moderately used for research and education. Major activities known to occur within the Planning Unit include camping, target shooting, hunting, rockhounding, hobby prospecting, and vehicle free play and touring. The Rand Mountains are heavily used, primarily for vehicle-oriented activities.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral. The Randsburg area was the largest producer of silver, gold, and tungsten in the CDCA. Exploration is still quite active. Ulexite (a borate), halite (salt) and gypsum occur in the western part of the Planning Unit near Koehn Lake. The U.S. Geological Survey has classified the Fremont Valley as prospectively valuable for sodium. There are approximately 109 patented claims and approximately 360 unpatented claims were reported by the BLM as of December 1979 in Planning Unit #21, predominantly in the vicinity of Randsburg.

#### PLANNING UNIT #22

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

###### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect the desert tortoise, a BLM sensitive species, and the California State reptile (22a, Map 21).

b) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for access for recreation and mineral exploration and development (22b, Map 21).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #22 contains ACEC #22, the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area. The primary management objective is to protect wildlife, and particularly the desert tortoise. See Appendix IV (22, Map 21).

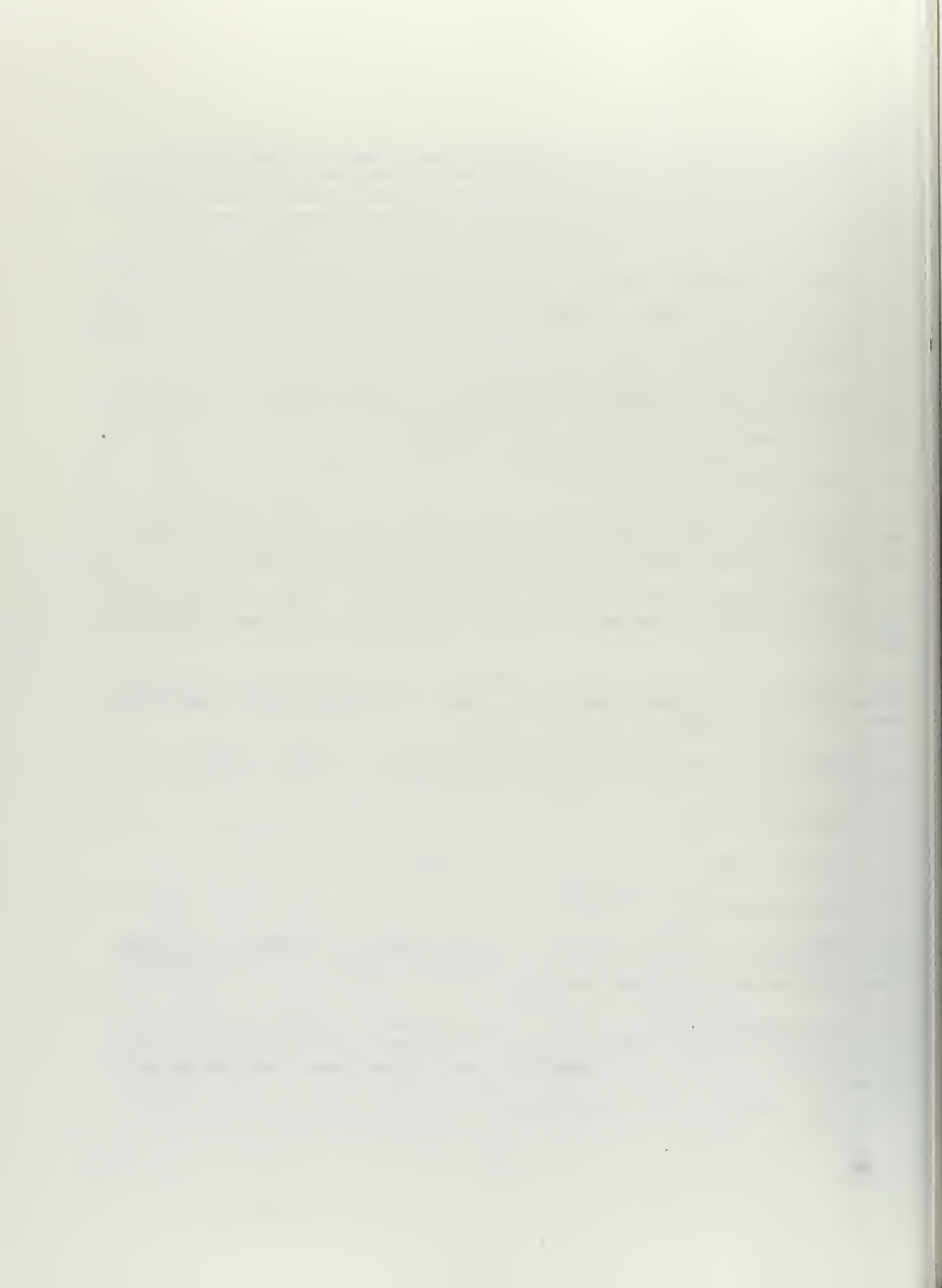
3. Wildlife Management. There is existing Habitat Management Plan for the

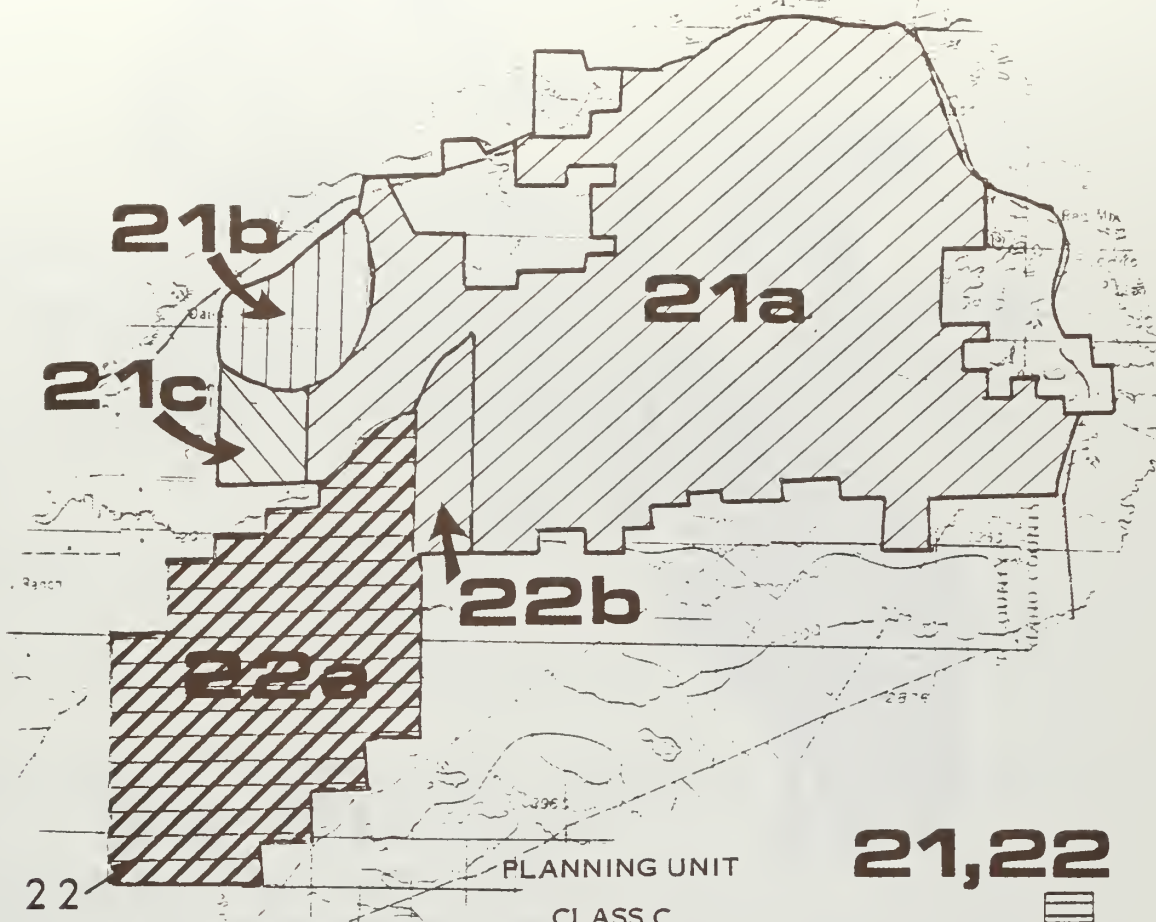
Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area. The management objectives are to protect the wildlife resources and to provide for research pertaining to wildlife habitat and species; especially the desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel. The plan has been completed. Long-term management will require acquisition of private lands (22, Map 22).

4. Grazing Allotments. None.
5. Wild Horses and Burros. No HMAP.
6. Utility Corridors. None.
7. Motorized Vehicle Access. Although this Planning Unit is designated Class L, approved routes of travel, the entire area will be closed to vehicle travel for protection of wildlife (desert tortoise).

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. One small area of known high cultural resource sensitivity/significance has been identified in the Planning Unit. It is believed to represent temporary encampments and lithic procurement.
2. Native American. Native American sources have not indicated that this Planning Unit contains areas of religious importance. Secular values are unknown at this time.
3. Wildlife. The only State or Federally listed species is the Mohave ground squirrel. The desert tortoise is identified by the BLM as sensitive. There are no other important wildlife species.
4. Vegetation. There were no special vegetation values identified in Planning Unit #22.
5. Wilderness. None.
6. Grazing. None.
7. Wild Horse and Burro. No HMAP.
8. Recreation. Planning Unit #22 has excellent opportunities for nature study, particularly wildlife study. The area is capable of an outstanding floral display when conditions are right.
9. Geology-Energy-Mineral. At this time there are no economically valuable mineral resources in Planning Unit #22. Sand and gravel occur here and the U.S. Geological Survey has classified most of the area as prospectively valuable for sodium. Granitic rocks in this Planning Unit are a continuation of the Rand Mountains which are mineralized to the northeast.

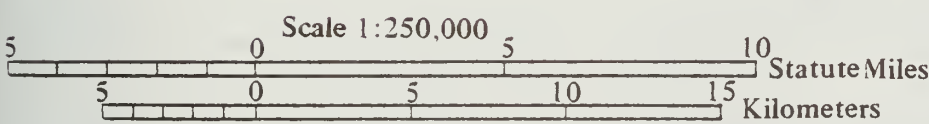




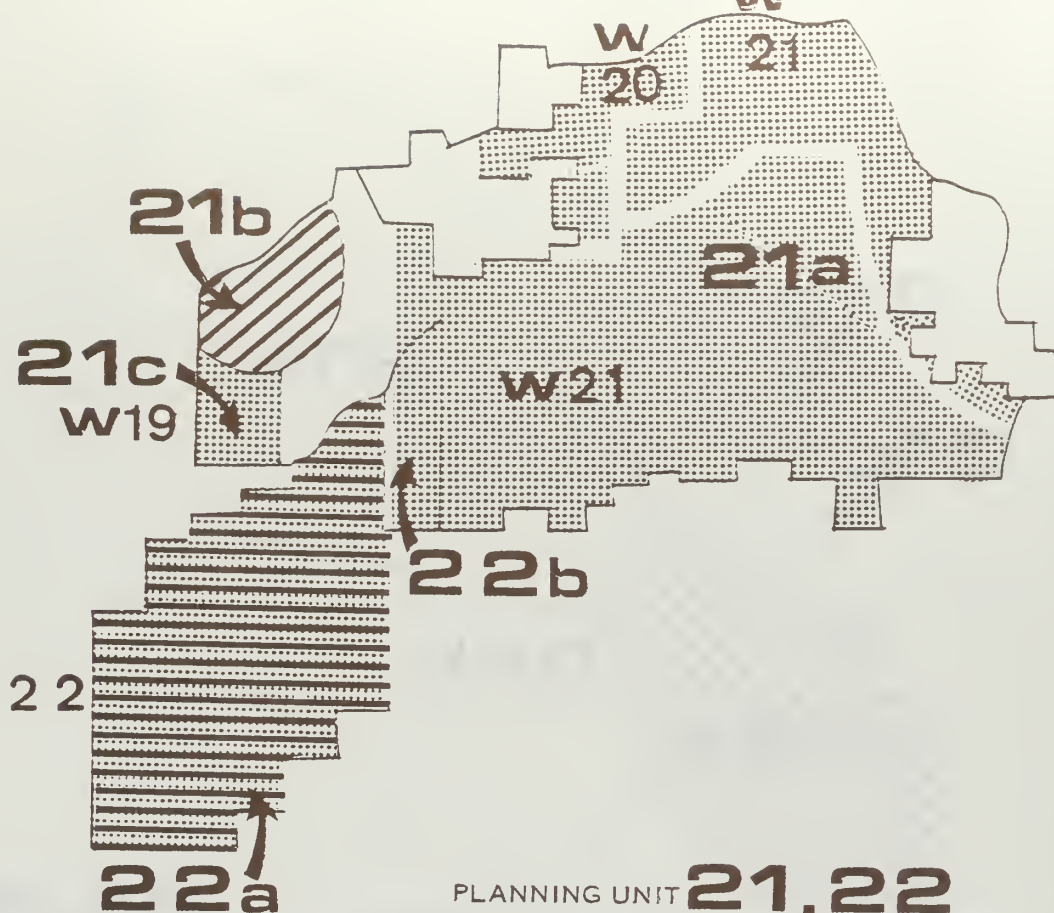
PLANNING UNIT

**21,22**

- CLASS C 
- CLASS L 
- CLASS M 
- CLASS I 
- UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR 
- AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN **22** 







PLANNING UNIT **21, 22**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **22 19 21**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **20**

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **14**

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

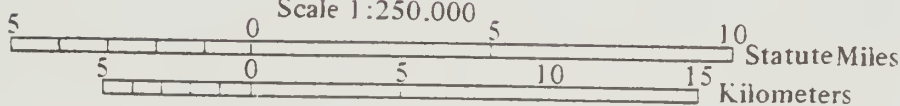
CLOSED



**21b**  
**22a**

\* ENTIRE UNIT 21 IN GRAZING ALLOTMENT 14  
SEE LIVESTOCK GRAZING MAP FOR GRAZING  
ALLOTMENTS OUTSIDE TORTOISE PRESERVE  
IN UNIT 22

Scale 1:250,000



MAP **22**

## PLANNING UNIT #23

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class M because of unusually high mineral values. This multiple use class will also allow vehicle access for management of grazing and burros and for recreationists, while providing for mitigation of impacts of permitted uses on desert resources (23a, Map 23).

b), d) These areas are recommended for Class L to protect wildlife and cultural resources, while allowing limited vehicle access for mineral exploration, grazing management, and recreation (23b and 23d, Map 23).

c) This area is recommended as Class M because of high mineral potential (23c, Map 23).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #23 contains ACEC #6, Darwin Falls/Canyon. Management objectives are to protect wildlife habitat and outstanding scenic quality (6, Map 23).

3. Wildlife Management. Planning Unit #23 contains one Habitat Management Plan, W-8, Argus Mountains. Its objective is to protect the habitat of the desert bighorn sheep and reverse downward trend in population of this species. The plan will be completed in five years (W-8, Map 24).

Planning Unit #23 contains portions of two grazing allotments. They are:

Darwin Allotment. It will maintain the existing perennial designation, and the current authorized use level of 44 AUMs. The season of use is winter. The Allotment Management Plan is low priority (7, Map 24).

The Lacey-Cactus-McCloud Grazing Allotment. It will maintain a perennial designation, and the current authorized use level of 4,873 AUMs. The seasons of use are winter and spring. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will be designed to protect the habitat of the Inyo Brown Towhee, and will be developed in cooperation with the Naval Weapons Center (9, Map 24).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Planning Unit #28 contains a portion of the Centennial Herd Management Area. It will reduce the number of wild horses from 600 to 168, and the number of feral burros from 3,684 to 1,137. A high priority Herd Management Area Plan will be developed in close cooperation with the Naval Weapons Center. The HMAP will include the removal of wild horses and burros from bighorn sheep habitat in the Argus Range, and from Inyo Brown Towhee areas (A, Map 24).

Also in Planning Unit #23 is a small part of the Panamint Herd Management Area. In the HMA, the population of feral burros will be reduced from 1,270 to 240 animals. The high priority Saline-Panamint Valley's Herd Management Area Plan will be developed with the objective of restricting burro use of bighorn sheep range. The HMAP will also provide for the monitoring of the mesquite marsh habitat. It's scheduled for completion by the end of Fiscal

Year 1981 (0, Map 24).

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. The only exception to the Multiple Use Class guidelines with respect to Motorized Vehicle Areas is ACEC #6, Darwin Falls/Canyon. Although Darwin Falls is in Class L, approved routes of travel, the area will be closed to vehicle access to protect wildlife and scenic values.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Areas of identified high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are scattered throughout this Planning Unit. This area includes important historic mining remains. The potentially sensitive cultural resources are located along the canyons at the base of the Argus Range.

2. Native American. Planning Unit #23 contains a Bishop Paiute pinyon collection area, and a Panamint Shoshone chia collection area that has ritual associations.

3. Wildlife. The desert bighorn sheep has been identified as a BLM sensitive species in this area. The golden eagle is also found in the area. Darwin Falls is particularly important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation. Planning Unit #23 has at least one rare plant species.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #23 has two Wilderness Study Areas. WSA #132A, Darwin Falls, is rated # 36 out of 137. WSA #132B, North Argus Range, was rated #79 out of 137.

6. Grazing. The Darwin Allotment range condition is fair. The Lacey-Cactus-McCloud Allotment range condition is fair.

7. Wild Horse and Burro. The range condition in concentration areas within the Centennial Herd Management Area is poor to fair. There are 600 wild horses, and 3,684 feral burros present.

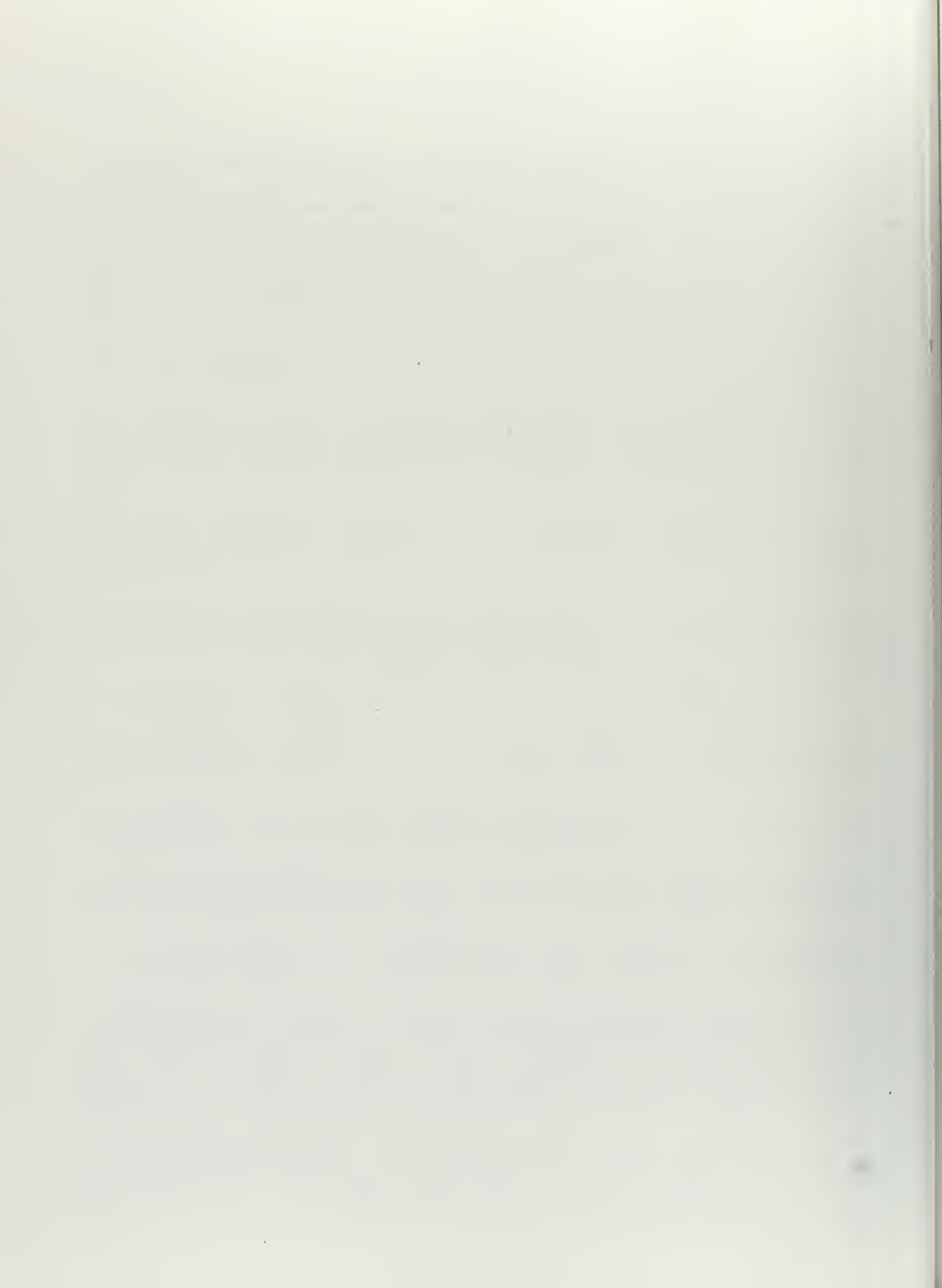
In the Panamint Herd Management Area, the condition of concentration areas is poor. There are 1,270 feral burros present.

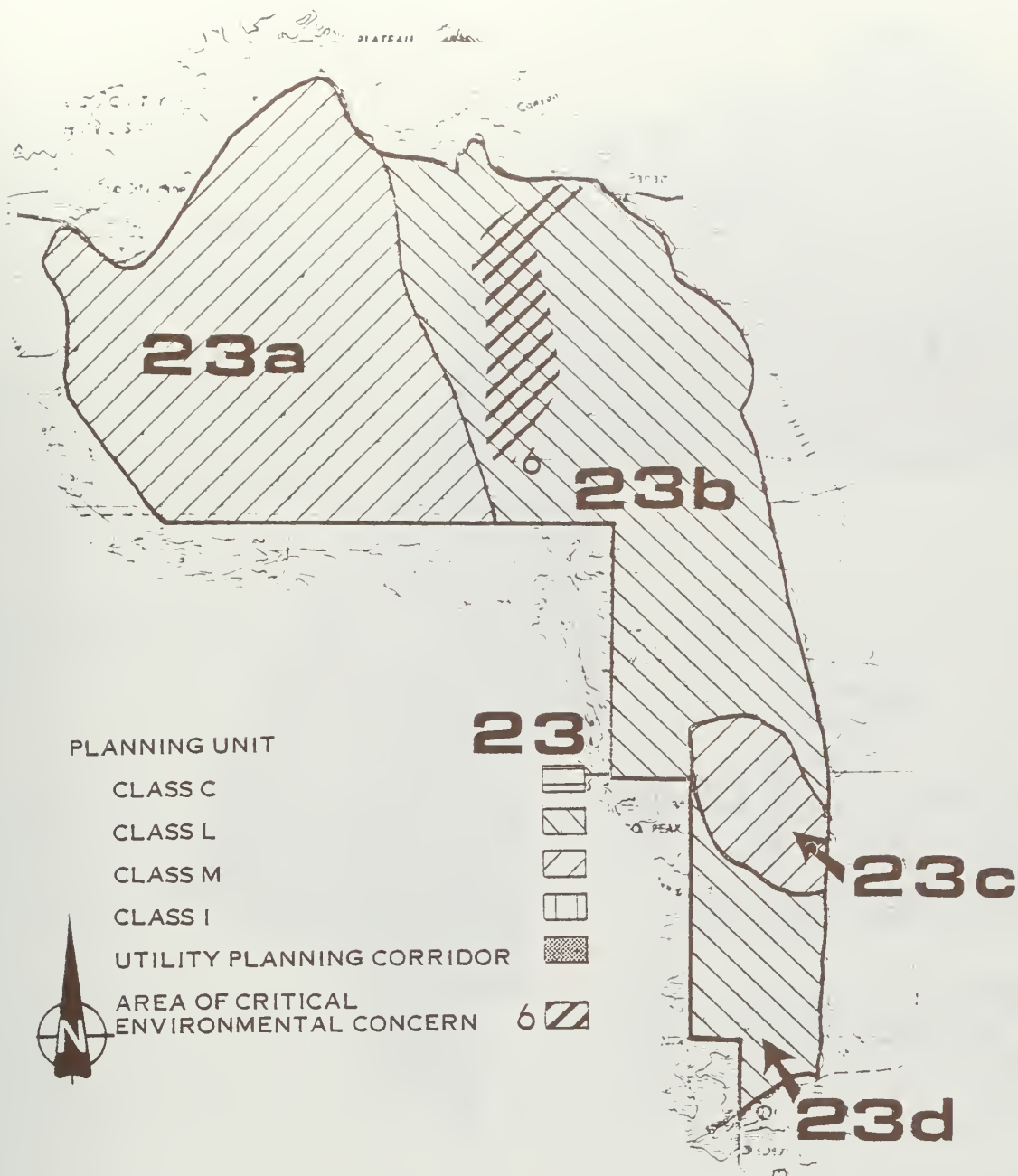
8. Recreation. Planning Unit #23 has some excellent opportunities for hiking and backpacking in the Lookout Mountain/Thompson Canyon areas of the Argus Range. There are excellent rock and mineral collecting sites in the Darwin area. Darwin Falls is rated excellent for interpretation and education. Current activities include hiking, sightseeing, vehicle touring, education, and rockhounding.

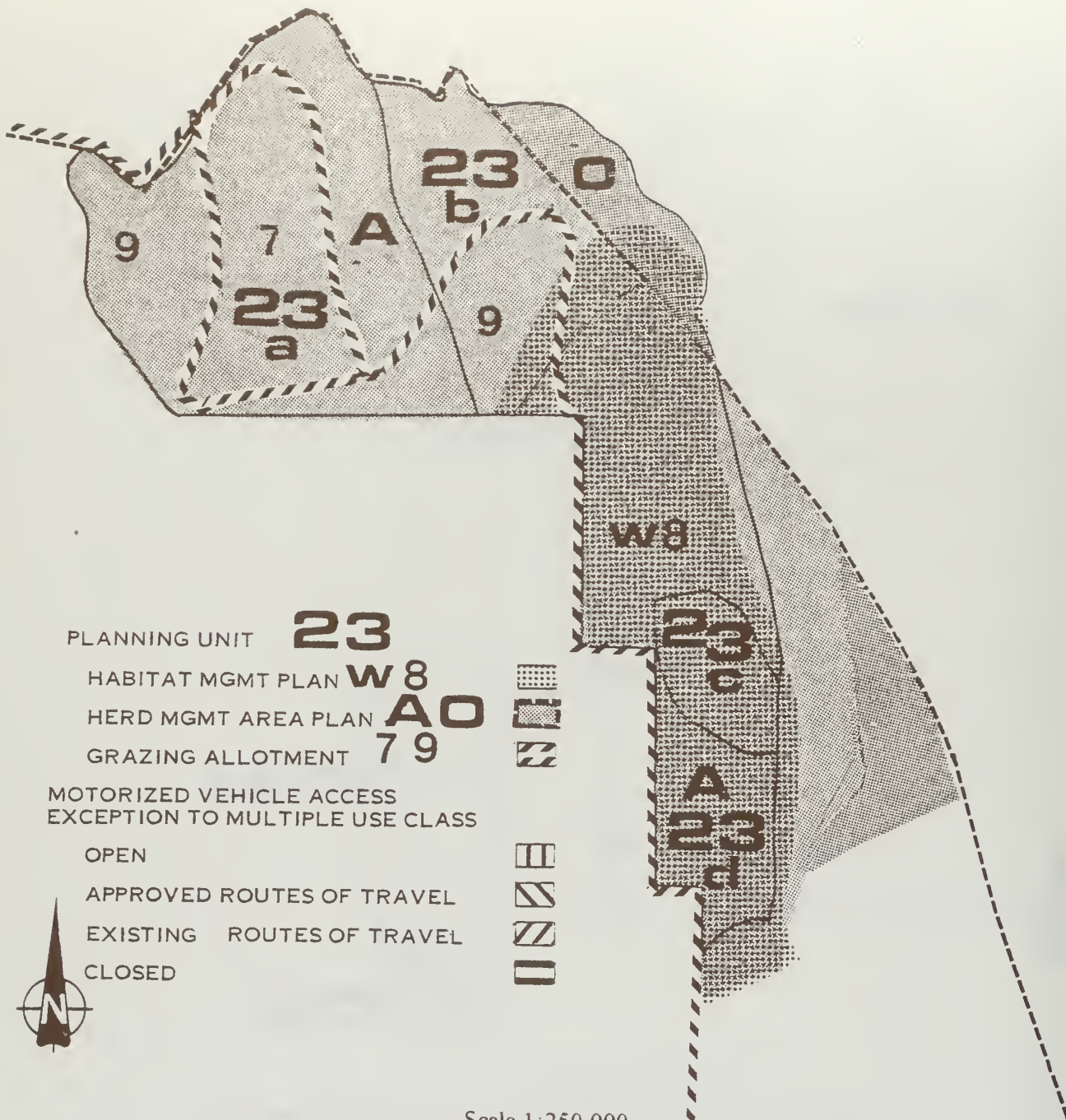
9. Geology-Energy-Mineral. Gold, onyx, and limestone are being mined in this Planning Unit and there is exploration for and development of silver and copper deposits. The Darwin, Zinc Hill and Modoc mining districts have produced more than 6,000 ounces of gold, 10,000 ounces of silver, 56,000,000

pounds of zinc, 140,000,000 pounds of lead, and 2,000,000 pounds of copper. Tungsten, antimony, and calcite have also been produced here. There is potential for future discoveries of these commodities and for further exploration of the uranium minerals which are known to occur here. There are 91 patented claims and 589 unpatented claims reported by BLM as of 12/19/79.









## PLANNING UNIT #24

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, cultural resources, and Native American values, while providing vehicle access for recreation and mineral exploration and development (24a, Map 25).

b) This area is recommended as Class C to protect wilderness, natural and cultural values (24b, Map 25).

#### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. Planning Unit #24 contains a small portion of Habitat Management Plan, W-8, ARGUS Mountains. Its objective is to protect bighorn sheep habitat. Plan will be completed within 5 five years (W-8, Map 26).

#### 4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Panamint Herd Management Area. In the HMA the population of feral burros will be reduced from 1,270 to 240 animals. The high priority Saline-Panamint Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) will be developed with the objective of restricting burro use of bighorn sheep range. The HMAP will also provide for the monitoring of the mesquite marsh habitat (0, Map 26).

Slate Range Herd Management Area. This will tentatively provide for the reduction of the feral burro population from 840 to 408 animals. This proposed reduction is subject to change. The high priority Centennial Valley HMAP is being developed in close cooperation with the Naval Weapons Center. The HMAP will include monitoring of both feral burros, and desert bighorn sheep (T, Map 26).

Planning Unit #24 contains a portion of the Centennial Herd Management Area. It will reduce the number of wild horses from 600 to 168, and the number of feral burros from 3,684 to 1,137. The management of this HMA is discussed in the Centennial Valley HMAP. The HMAP will include the removal of wild horses and burros from Bighorn Sheep habitat in the Argus Range, and from the end of Inyo Brown Towhee areas. The HMAP is high priority and will be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1981 (A, Map 28).

#### 6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines with respect to motorized vehicle access In Planning Unit #24.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Extensive areas of the Planning Unit are within zones of



recognized high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance. The resources are remains of prehistoric and historic activity representing lakeside adaptation, subsistence activities, lithic procurement, historic travel, townsites, and mining.

2. Native American. There are several collection areas with ritual association including pinyon collection sites, and Galleta grass areas for baskets. The Planning Unit also has some burial sites of importance to the Panamint Shoshone.

3. Wildlife. The only BLM sensitive species present in Planning Unit #24 is the desert bighorn sheep. Other important species are the prairie falcon, golden eagle, pallid bat, and mule deer. The Panamint Lake-mesquite-marsh area is of special importance to wildlife.

4. Vegetation. There were no special vegetation values identified.

5. Wilderness. There is one Wilderness Study Area entirely within the Planning Unit and a portion of another. WSA #134, Wildrose Canyon, is ranked #25 out of 137. A part of WSA #142, the Slate Range, is within the Planning Unit. It is ranked #14 out of 137.

6. Grazing. None.

7. Wild Horse and Burro. In the Panamint Herd Management Area, the condition of the range in concentration areas is poor. There are approximately 1,270 feral burros present.

8. Recreation. There are excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities in the southern portion of the Cottonwood Range. There is one site that is rated excellent for interpretation and education, the Panamint Valley Craters. Current Activities include camping, and vehicle touring.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral. Sand and gravel produced by Cal Trans south of Towne Pass. There may have been minor past production of pumice from Ash Hill. Clay southeast of Panamint Springs was explored in the 1950s. Approximately 250 feet of halite (salt) was penetrated in an exploratory hole in the southern end of Panamint Lake. Panamint Lake is withdrawn for potassium. The Springs at Indian Ranch are 26.7°C. This area has been designated as a Prospective Geothermal Resource Area (PGRA) by the U.S. Geological Survey. Panamint Valley has been classified by the U.S. Geological Survey as prospectively valuable for oil and gas. Exploration for uranium has been focused on sediments in Panamint Valley during the 1970s.

#### PLANNING UNIT #25

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

##### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, vegetation, sensitive soils, and Native American values, while providing vehicle access for mineral exploration and recreation (25a, Map 25).

b) This area is recommended as Class C due to its high wilderness qualities and for the Protection of natural and cultural resources (25b, Map 25).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. This planning unit contains ACEC #8, Surprise Canyon. Management objectives are to protect prehistoric values, historic mining ruins, wildlife habitat, vegetation, and outstanding scenic quality. See Appendix IV (8, Map 25).

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the canyons in the western face of the Panamint Mountains. The management objective is to manage this area to ensure protection of the wildlife habitat and its occupants, especially the riparian areas, Panamint alligator lizard and desert bighorn sheep, etc. The Panamint Mountains bighorn sheep herd currently is declining. Completion of the plan is to be within two years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros and protection of water sources (W-10, Map 28).

4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros Panamint Herd Management Area. In the HMA, the population of feral burros will be reduced from 1,270 to 240 animals. The high priority Saline-Panamint Valley's Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) will be developed with the objective of restricting burro use of bighorn sheep range. The HMAP will also provide for the monitoring of the mesquite marsh habitat. The HMAP is scheduled for completion by the end of Fiscal Year 1981 (O, Map 26).

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. The major canyons in the Panamint Range are the source of much prehistoric and historic activity. Permanent water was available and other subsistence resources could also be procured along these canyons. In addition, these canyons were the access routes to mineralized ore deposits as well as to higher elevation resources such as pinyon nuts.

2. Native American. There are no identified Native American resource values.

3. Wildlife. The only species present that is on the BLM sensitive species list is the desert bighorn sheep. Other important species include the Pacific tree frog, Panamint alligator lizard, black-headed snake, prairie falcon, yellow warbler, pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, big brown bat, Panamint chipmunk, Panamint kangaroo rat, and mule deer. The west Panamint Canyon riparian areas are very important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation. At least four sensitive plant species occur within the planning unit. At least four riparian areas are located in the Planning Unit; each supports riparian vegetation.

5. Wilderness. The planning unit contains all or some of four Wilderness Study Areas: numbers 136, Surprise Canyon; 137, Manly Peak; 137a, Middle Park Canyon; and 142, Slate Range. These are ranked #38, #21, #88, and #14, respectively, out of 137 Wilderness Study Areas.

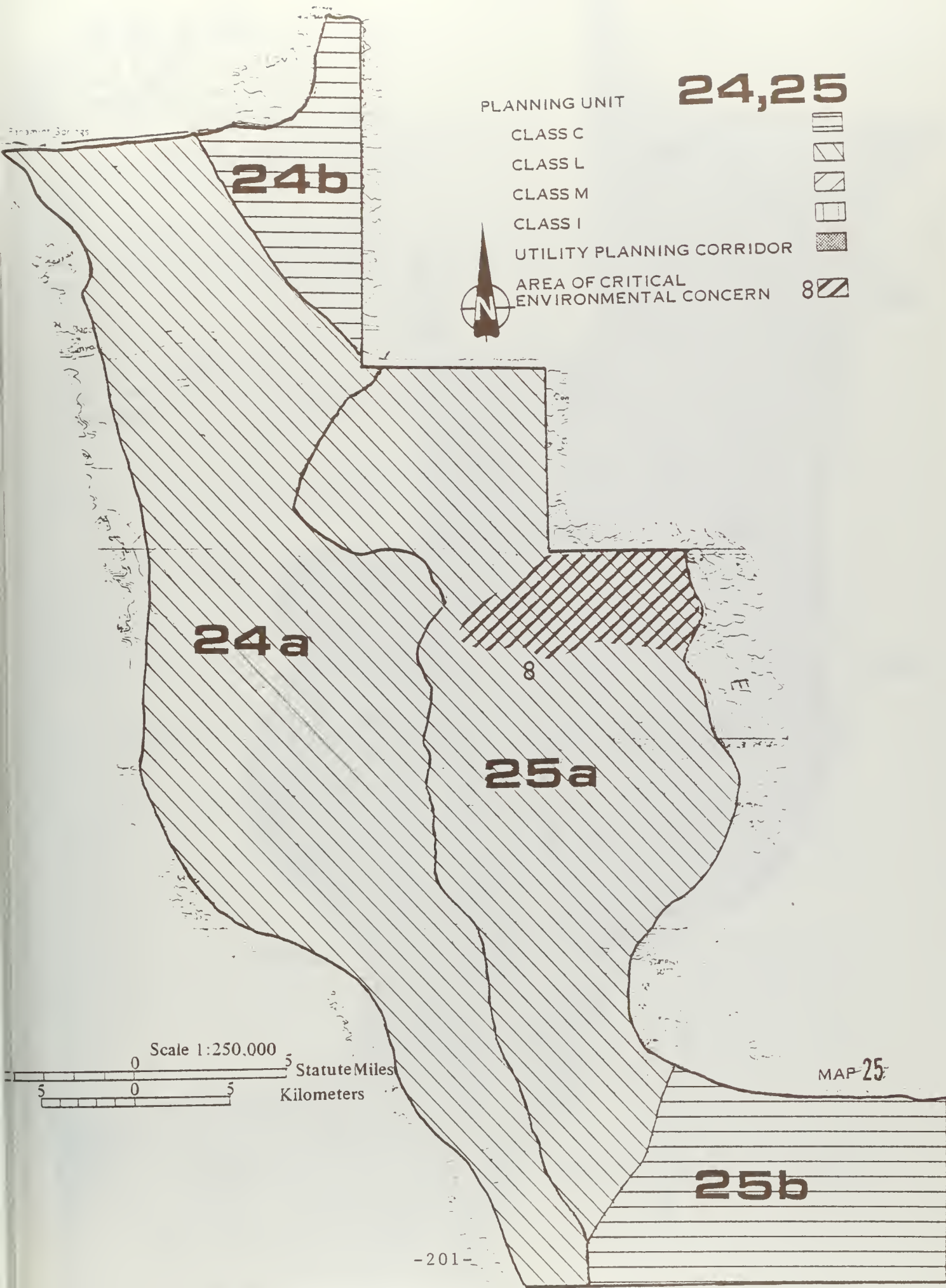
6. Grazing. None.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. In the Panamint Herd Management Area, the condition of the range in concentration areas is poor. There are approximately 1,270 feral burros present.

8. Recreation. There are excellent opportunities for hiking, backpacking, nature study, and birdwatching throughout the Panamint Range. Three interpretive and educational sites received an excellent rating; Panamint City, the Panamint City pictographs, and the Panamint Range itself. Ninety percent of the Planning Unit was rated "excellent" for scenic quality. Major activities include camping, sightseeing, vehicle touring, hiking, backpacking, education and research, rockhounding, and hobby prospecting.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral. The Panamint Range has been a major producer of metals in the past. Seven mines produced approximately 83,500 ounces of gold. The Panamint district produced over 2,000,000 ounces of silver. Lead, zinc, tungsten, and dolomite have also been mined here. Large reserves of gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc remain in this area. In addition to these deposits, many other occurrences of gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, antimony, tungsten, uranium, barite, and dolomite have also been found in this range. The geologic potential is excellent for these commodities. The geologic environment is also favorable for bentonite, zeolite, thorium, perlite, and pumice. Exploration for uranium and metallic minerals has taken place in this area. There are more than 30 patented claims and 500 unpatented claims reported by BLM.





**24,25**

PLANNING UNIT

CLASS C

CLASS L

CLASS M

CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



**24a**

**25a**

**25b**

Scale 1:250,000

Statute Miles  
Kilometers

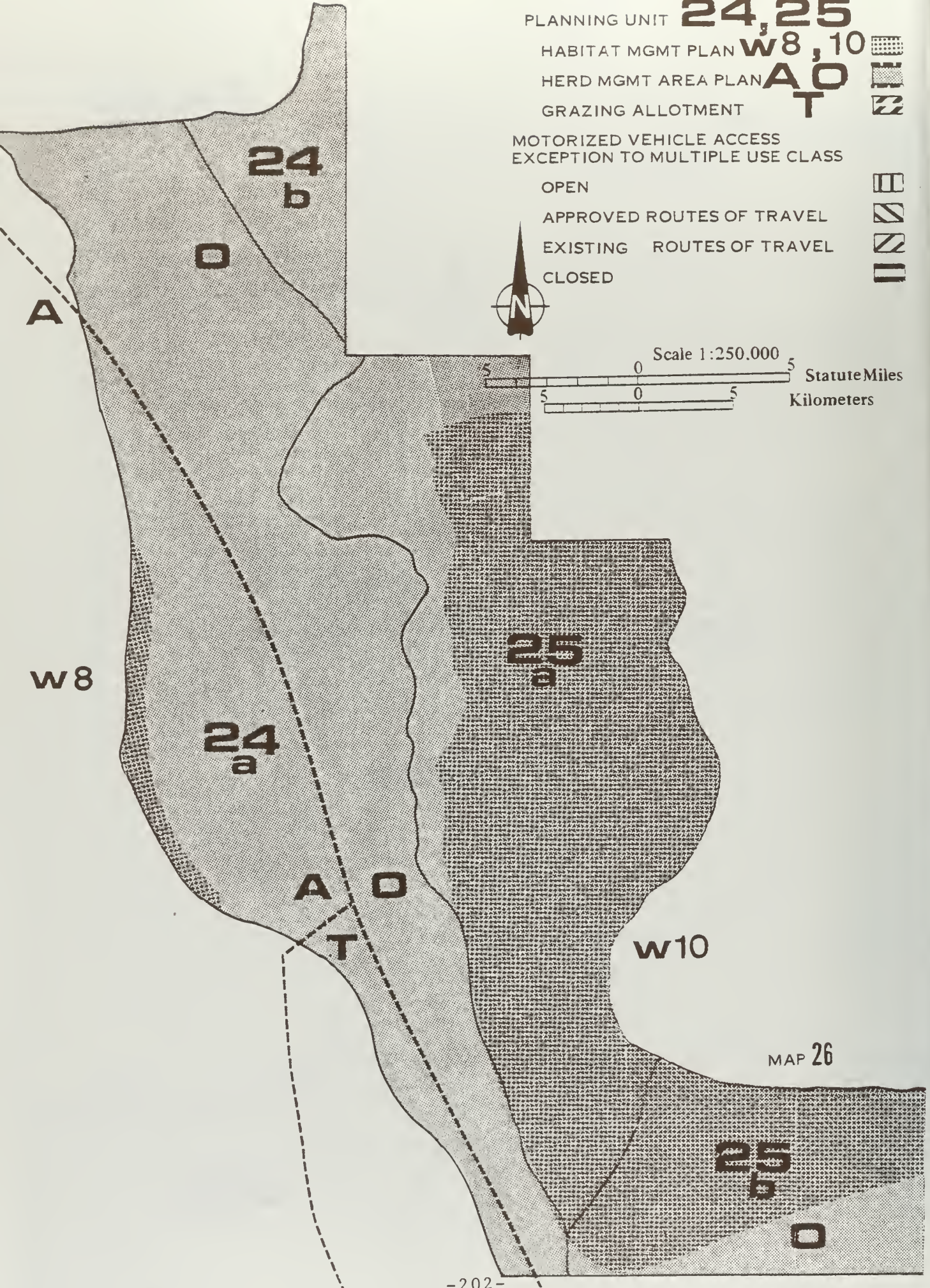
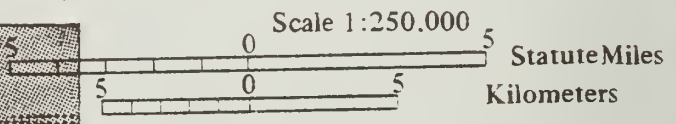
MAP 25



PLANNING UNIT **24, 25**  
 HABITAT MGMT PLAN **w8, 10**  
 HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **A O**  
 GRAZING ALLOTMENT **T**

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
 EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN  
 APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL  
 EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL  
 CLOSED



MAP 26



## PLANNING UNIT #26

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, cultural, and Native American resources, while providing for vehicle access for mineral exploration and recreation. (26a, Map 27)

b) This area is recommended as Class M to provide vehicle access to an area with high mineral potential, while protecting desert resources from the impacts of permitted uses. (26b, Map 27)

c) This area is recommended as Class I because of existing intensive mineral operations. (26a, Map 27)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. This Planning Unit contains ACEC #8, Inyo Grown Towhee/Great Falls Basin. Objectives are to protect wildlife and outstand scenic quality. (12, Map 27)

3. Wildlife Management. A Wildlife Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Argus Mountains. The objective is to manage this area to ensure protection and enhancement of the declining desert bighorn sheep herd in the Argus Range. A portion of this HMP area will be managed as an ACEC within Inyo brown towhee range. Completion of the plan will be within five years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros and horses and changes in livestock grazing practices. (W8, Map 28)

4. Grazing Allotments. The Homewood Canyon Proposed Allotment may be leased for ephemeral use. Some portions have been excluded from livestock use because of wildlife concerns. (65, Map 28)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Slate Range Herd Management Area. This will tentatively provide for the reduction of the feral burro population from 840 to 408 animals. This proposed reduction is subject to change. The Chicago Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) is being developed in close cooperation with the Naval Weapons Center. The HMAP will include monitoring of both feral burros, and desert bighorn sheep. (T, Map 28)

Planning Unit #26 contains a portion of the Centennial Herd Management Area. It will reduce the number of wild horses from 600 to 168, and the number of feral burros from 3,684 to 1,137. The Centennial Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) will be developed in close cooperation with the Naval Weapons Center. The HMAP will include the removal of wild horses and burros from bighorn sheep habitat in the Argus Range, and from the Inyo brown towhee areas. Both are high priority and will be completed by the end of Fiscal year 198a. (A, Map 28)

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There is one large area within the Planning Unit which is an exception to the Multiple-Use Class Guidelines. In Planning

Unit sub-area 266, designated Class I because of mining activities, vehicle access will be on existing routes of travel. (c, Map 28)

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Scattered areas of known high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are found throughout this planning unit. The resource values are associated with the mineral deposits in the Argus and Slate ranges, as well as with the water sources in these same areas. Temporary encampments, subsistence activities, and mining were the main activities.

2. Native American. No values of religious importance, or of secular concern have been identified.

3. Wildlife. The Inyo brown towhee, and the Mohave ground squirrel are State-listed species. The only BLM sensitive species is the desert bighorn sheep. Other important species include the golden eagle, prairie falcon, Townsend's big-eared bat, and the chisel-toothed kangaroo rat. The riparian areas in the Argus Range are particularly important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation. There were no special vegetation values identified.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #26 contains portions of two Wilderness Study Areas. WSA #132, Great Falls Basin is ranked #80 out of 137. WSA #142, the Slate Range is ranked #14 out of 137. See Appendix III for more information.

6. Grazing. The Homewood Canyon Allotment range condition is fair.

7. Wild Horse and Burro. The Slate Range Herd Management Area range condition is fair. There are approximately 804 feral burros present.

8. Recreation. Excellent hiking opportunities are present in the Argus Range. Searles Dry Lake, and the area near the Salt Wells are excellent places to collect rocks and minerals. There is one site rated "excellent" for interpretive and educational purposes - Searles Dry Lake. Major activities include motorcycle and four-wheel-drive play and touring, target shooting, hunting, and nature study.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. This planning unit contains one of the CDCA's major producers, Searles Lake, where Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation produces potash, soda ash, borates, and tungsten, and has produced lithium and bromine. The Whittaker Mine, at the mouth of Water Canyon, produces iron. There are three active sand and gravel sites in Searles Valley. In 1977, about \$200,000 worth of tungsten was produced from the 76 mine in the Slate Range. Gold was produced at the Water Canyon Mine in the 1970s. North of Great Falls Basin, the Mohawk Mine produced 257 ounces of gold, and reportedly has reserves of 20,000 short tons at 0.2 ounces/ton. The Ophir Mine in the Slate Range produced \$800,000 of lead, zinc, and silver. Numerous other mines may have produced, but no records were available. Hundreds of thousands of tons of limestone were produced until 1956 from the Westend Quarry in the Slate Range. Also reported are 7 gold occurrences, 4 lead occurrences, 3 manganese, 2 copper, 2 antimony occurrences, a mica occurrence, a pumice occurrence, and a

dimension stone occurrence. Searles Valley has been classified by the U.S. Geological Survey as prospectively valuable for oil and gas, known valuable for sodium and potassium, and as a potential geothermal resource area. In Great Falls Basin, geochemical data indicate anomalously high tin and rare-earth values in a felsic granite. This planning area contains 15 patented claims and about 1677 unpatented claims reported by the BLM.





PLANNING UNIT

CLASS C

CLASS L

CLASS M

CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



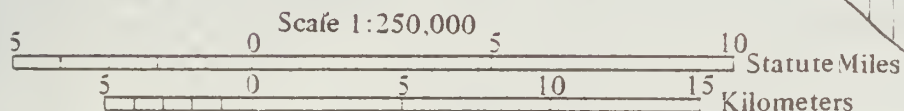
26

26a

12

26b

26c



MAP 28

## PLANNING UNIT #27

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Classes.

a) and c) These portions of the Planning Unit are recommended as Class L to protect wildlife and cultural resources while providing for vehicle access for mineral exploration, and management of ephemeral grazing. (27a and 27c, Map 29)

b) This area is recommended as Class M because of its high mineral values. This designation will also provide vehicle access for grazing management while providing protection of sensitive desert resources. (27b, Map 29)

d) This area is recommended as Class I to provide for continuance of traditional ORV free play activities. (27d, Map 29)

e) This area is recommended as Class M status to provide for vehicle access for recreation, grazing, and mineral exploration and development. Due to the presence of threatened and sensitive wildlife species, completion of a recreation plan for the area will have a high priority, so that vehicle management actions can be explicitly defined. (27e, Map 29)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The planning unit contains two ACECs. The Trona Pinnacles, ACEC #16, is designed to protect the scenic quality and unique geologic formations of the area. (16, Map 29) The Christmas Canyon, ACEC #23, has been proposed in order to protect prehistoric values. (23, Map 29)

3. Wildlife. The planning unit contains portions of two wildlife Habitat Management Plans (HMPs). The Red Mountain/El Paso Mountains HMP is proposed in order to protect and enhance wildlife resources; especially the raptor species which breed in the area. The plan will be completed within five years. (W20, Map 30)

A Habitat Management Plan for the western Mojave Desert crucial habitats is proposed. The management objective is to protect and enhance crucial habitats located in the western portion of the Mojave Desert; especially those for the desert tortoise, and the Mohave ground squirrel. Completion of the plan is to be within five years. Long-term management of this area will require land acquisition and changes in livestock grazing practices. (W21, Map 30)

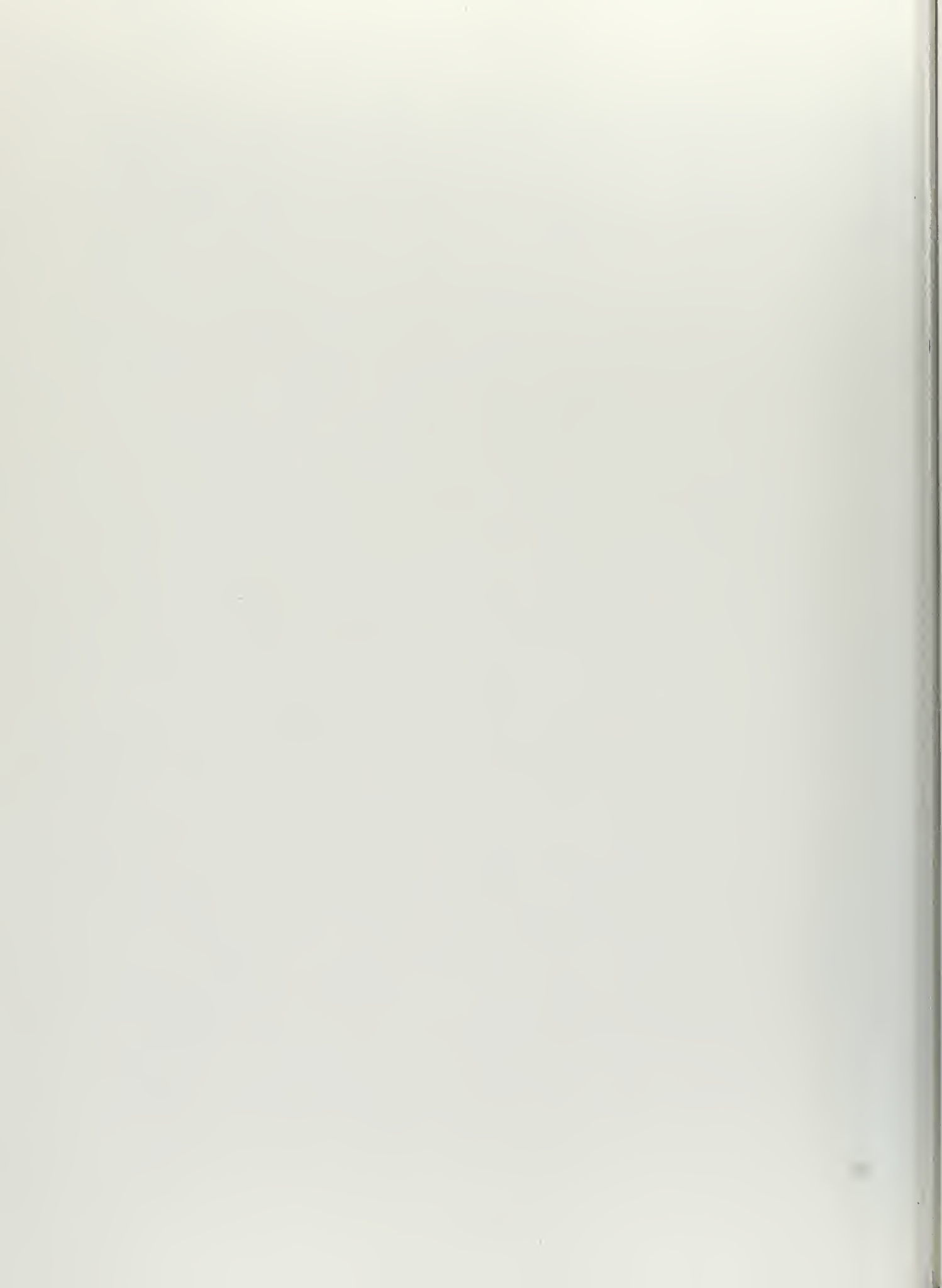
4. Grazing Allotments. The planning unit includes two livestock grazing allotments. The Spangler Hills Allotment will remain an ephemeral allotment, but it will be necessary that a minimum of 200 pounds of dry vegetation per acre be available before the livestock are turned out to graze. (31, Map 32) The Cantil Common Allotment will remain as an ephemeral designation. The Allotment Management Plan is high priority, and will be developed to include the "Ephemeral Sheep Guidelines for Desert Tortoise Habitat." See Appendix XIII. (14, Map 30)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. The planning unit contains a portion of the





coincident with a gamma-ray uranium anomaly. Gamma-ray thorium anomalies are located north of Searles Station, and in the north-central part of the eleven patented, and 87 unpatented mining claims. Teague Wash and the northwestern corner of this planning area have been classified as prospectively valuable for oil, gas, sodium, and potassium by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The southeastern part of the planning area has been classified by the USGS as a Potential Geothermal Resource Area.



PLANNING UNIT

CLASS C

CLASS L

CLASS M

CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

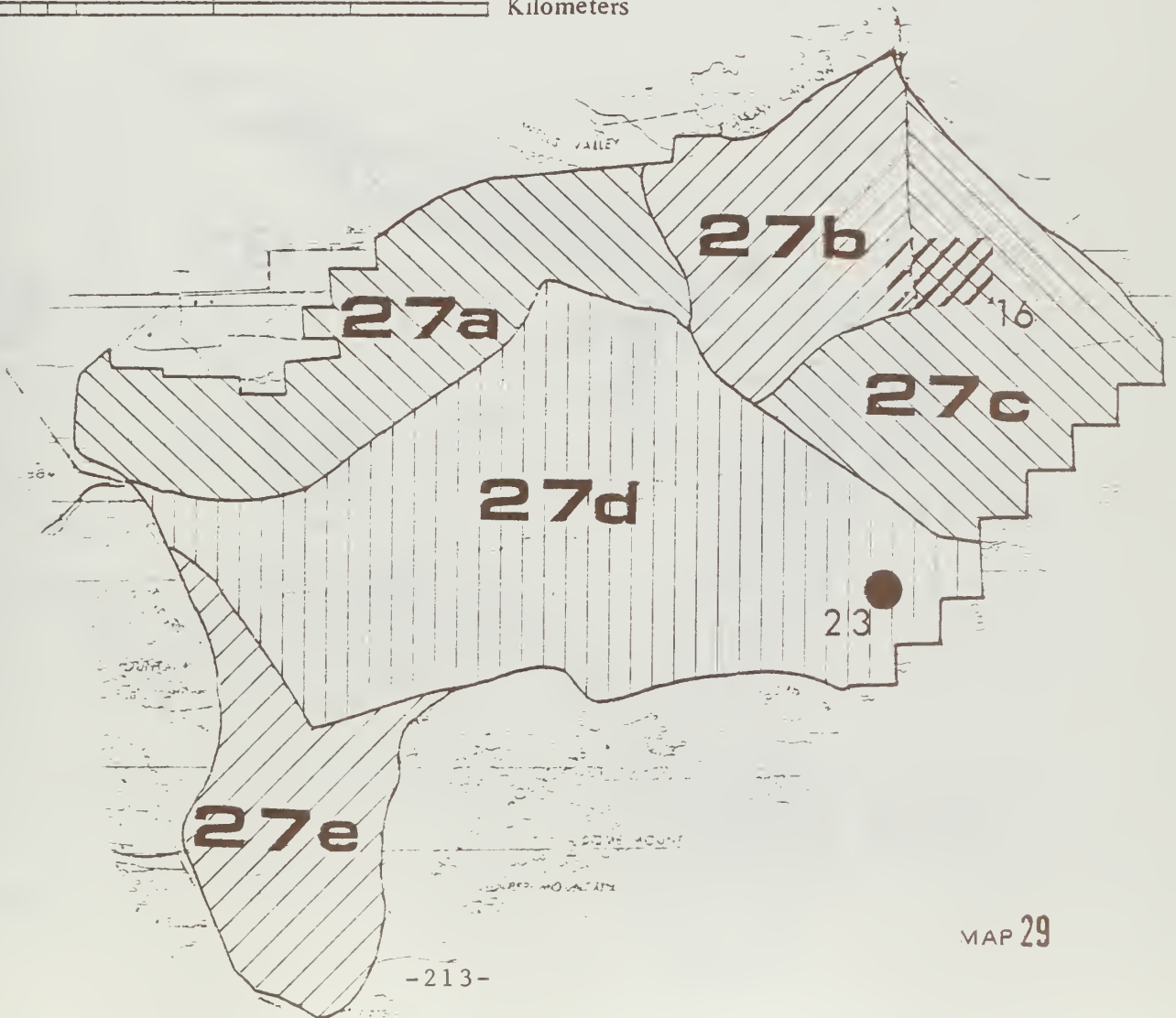
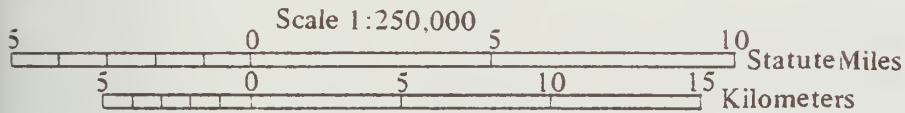
AREA OF CRITICAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

27



16

23





PLANNING UNIT **27**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **w20,21**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **A**

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **14,31**

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

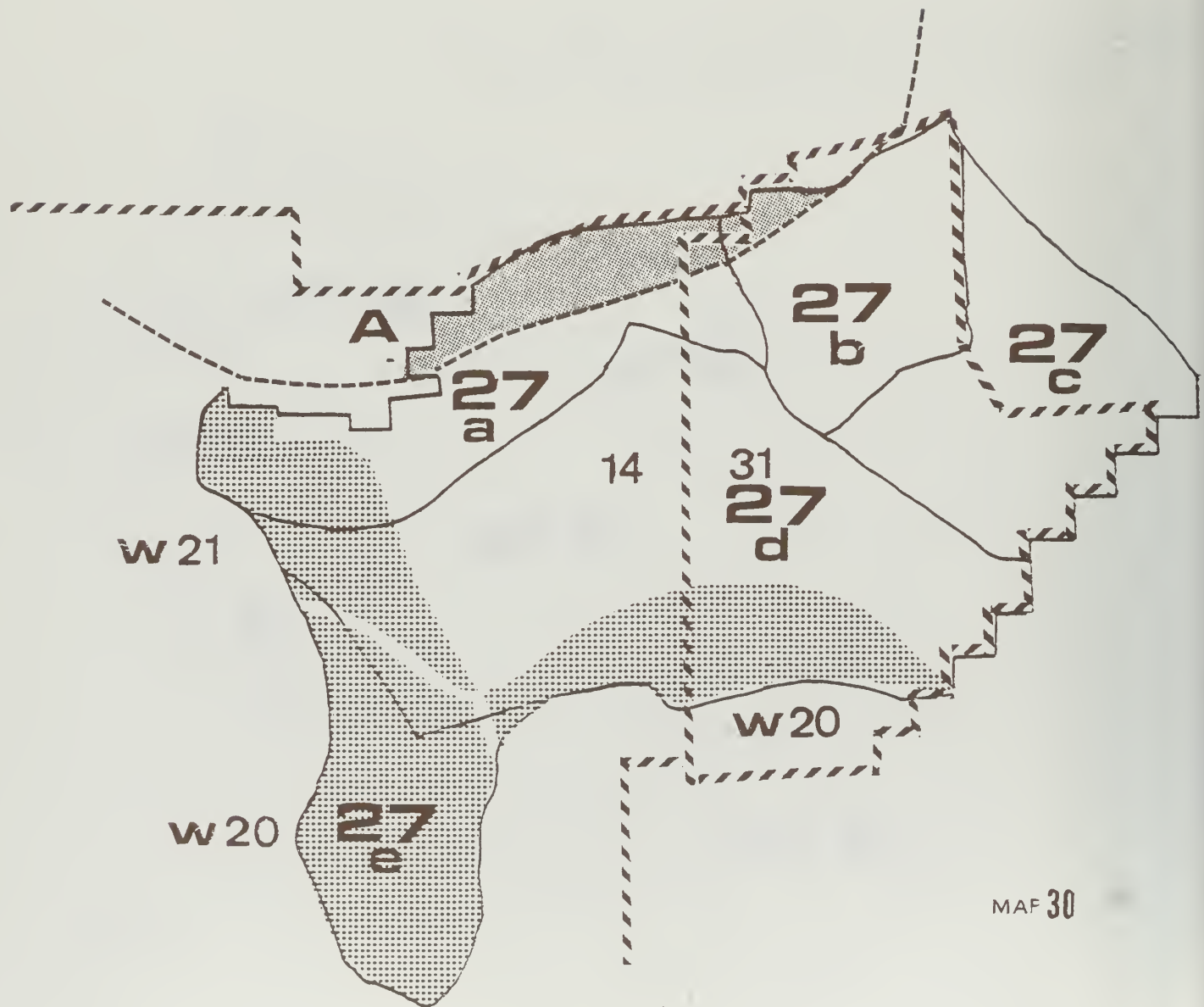
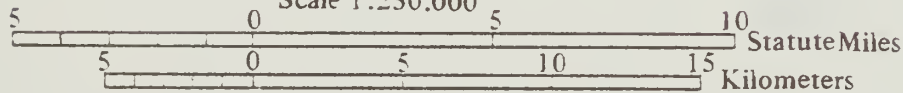
APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



Scale 1:250,000



MAP 30

## PLANNING UNIT #28

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Classes

a) This large portion of the planning unit is recommended as Class L to protect cultural resources, Native American values, and sensitive wildlife resources while providing vehicle access for mineral exploration and grazing management. (28a, Map 31)

b) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for vehicle access for recreation, mineral exploration and development and grazing management. Due to the presence of threatened and significant wildlife species, completion of a recreation plan for the area is given a high priority, so that vehicle management actions can be explicitly defined. (28b, Map 31)

c) This portion is recommended as Class C to protect outstanding wilderness values and wildlife, scenic, and cultural resources. See Appendix III. (28c, Map 31)

d) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, soils, cultural resources and Native American values while providing vehicle access for mineral exploration and development. (28d, Map 31)

e) This area is recommended as Class M to provide vehicle access for mineral exploration and grazing management, while providing protection of desert resources. (28e, Map 31)

f) This area is recommended as Class I to provide continuity with the large Class I area to the north in Planning Unit #27. (28f, Map 31)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. This planning unit contains six ACECs. Bedrock Spring, ACEC #24, is designed to protect prehistoric values. (24, Map 31) The purpose of the Steam Well and the Squaw Spring, ACECs #25 and #26, respectively, (25 and 26, Map 31) is to protect both historic and prehistoric values. North Harper Dry Lake, ACEC #36, is to protect vegetation resources, (36, Map 31) and South Harper Dry Lake, ACEC #37, is for the purpose of protecting the riparian area, including the associated wildlife habitat. (37, Map 31) Black Mountain, ACEC #35, is to protect prehistoric and Native American values. (35, Map 31)

3. Wildlife Management. The planning unit contains portions of two wildlife Habitat Management Plans. The Red Mountain/El Paso Mountains HMP is proposed in order to protect and enhance wildlife resources, especially the raptor species which breed in the area. Completion of the plan is to be within five years.

A Habitat Management Plan for the western Mojave Desert crucial habitat is proposed. The management objective is to protect and enhance crucial habitats located in the western portion of the Mojave Desert; especially those for the desert tortoise, and the Mohave ground squirrel. Completion of the plan is to be within five years. Long-term management of this area will require land

acquisition and changes in livestock grazing practices.

4. Grazing Allotments. This planning unit has eight grazing allotments.

The Pilot Knob Allotment will remain in ephemeral designation, but will now be subject to a 200 lb. per acre of air dry vegetation requirement prior to turning out the grazing livestock. Because of highly crucial desert tortoise habitat, the development of an allotment management plan will be a high priority. (29, Map 32)

The Harper Dry Lake Allotment designation will change from ephemeral to ephemeral perennial with an authorized use of 406 AUMS. Use will be allowed year-round. Development of the AMP is a medium priority and should include tortoise enclosure for study. (27, Map 32)

The Cantil Common Allotment will remain as an ephemeral designation. The Allotment Management Plan is high priority, and will be developed to include the "Ephemeral Sheep Guidelines for Desert Tortoise Habitat." See Appendix LW4. (14, Map 32)

The Spangler Hills allotment will remain an ephemeral allotment, but it will be necessary that a minimum of 200 lbs. of dry vegetation per acre be available before the livestock are turned out to graze. (31, Map 32)

The Lava Mountains Allotment will remain an ephemeral allotment, the Allotment Management Plan is low priority and will be subjected to a 200 pound per acre of air dry forage requirement prior to turning out grazing livestock. (28, Map 32)

The Gravel Hills allotment will remain as an ephemeral designation. This Allotment Management Plan is high priority, and will be developed to include the "Ephemeral Sheep Guidelines for Desert Tortoise Habitat." See Appendix XIII. (26, Map 32)

The Superior Valley Extension remains a proposed allotment but is reduced in size from the original proposal due to the wildlife and cultural resource concerns. The turning out of livestock is subject to additional wildlife restrictions as discussed in the livestock element for ephemeral allotments. (75, Map 32)

The Superior Valley Allotment will remain as an ephemeral designation. The Allotment Management Plan is high priority, and will be developed to include the "Ephemeral Sheep Guidelines for Desert Tortoise Habitat." Please refer to Appendix XIII. (33a, Map 32)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. There are no Herd Management Plans proposed for this planning unit.

6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor G borders the southern boundary of sub-area E of the planning unit.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be three areas within the planning unit which are exceptions to the Multiple-Use Class Guidelines. Bedrock



Spring, ACEC #24, an area of existing routes of travel, will be managed as approved routes of travel (1, Map 32). Squaw Spring, ACEC #26, an area of approved routes of travel, will be closed to vehicle access. (2, Map 32) South Harper Dry Lake, ACEC #37, an area of approved routes of travel, will be closed to vehicle access. (3, Map 32)

## B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Very large portions of this planning unit include known locations of high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance. There is an extremely high diversity of site types represented ranging from complex to simple. The area also includes a number of National Register Districts. Many of the sensitive resources represent historic activities, mostly mining and travel. The prehistoric resources represent habitation, extractive activities, lakeside adaptations, etc.

2. Native American. No Native American values have been identified.

3. Wildlife. The planning unit contains a federally and state-listed species, the Mohave ground squirrel. A BLM sensitive species, the desert tortoise, is found in this planning unit. Other species found in the area include the golden eagle, prairie falcon and Townsend's big eared bat. An important wildlife habitat found within the Planning Unit is the west Mojave saltbush community.

4. Vegetation. At least one, and possibly two sensitive plant species occur. There is also an unusual plant assemblage, the western Mojave saltbush community.

5. Wilderness. There are four Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). The Golden Valley WSA (No. 170) received a quality ranking of third out of a total of 137 WSAs. The ranking of the Blackwater Well WSA (No. 173) was 41. The Red Mountain (No. 172) and Grass Valley (No. 173A) WSAs received quality ratings of 97 and 105, respectively.

6. Grazing. The Lave Mountain Allotment range condition is good. The Pilot Knob Allotment range condition is good. The Harper Dry Lake Allotment range condition is good. The Cantil Common Allotment range condition is fair. The Spangler Hills Allotment range condition is good. The Gravel Hills allotment range condition is good. The Superior Valley Allotment range condition is good. The Superior Valley Extension range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. Several opportunities for recreation are present in this Planning Unit. Steam Well and Golden Valley are highly rated interpretive sites. Excellent upland game hunting is available in the Lava Mountains from Red Mountain to Klinker Mountain. Golden Valley exhibits an excellent seasonal floral display. Major recreational activities in the Planning Unit include camping, target shooting, four wheel drive touring and access, and education and research, hang gliding, and hunting.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. The northwestern part of the planning unit is



adjacent to the rich Red Mountain silver mines, and Atolia tungsten mines. The eastern part of this Planning Unit contains the White Butte deposit, a current feldspar producer. In the south part, the Waterman Mine produced \$1.7 million in silver between 1881-1896. The Waterman Mine is part of the Calico Mountain silver-barite system. In the central part, there are 3 occurrences of perlite, plus one of feldspar near the producer. The north part of the Planning Unit contains a reported uranium occurrence, 6 of gold, 2 of silver, 1 of tungsten, and occurrences of zeolites and feldspar. In the south part, there are reported occurrences of silver (3), lead (1), gold (2), and limestone (1). There is a large gamma-ray uranium anomaly at Harper Lake and Water Valley. This Planning area contains about 56 patented claims and 146 unpatented mining claims reported by the BLM. The Randsburg KGRA is situated in the northwestern part of the area.



# 28

PLANNING UNIT

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **W20,21**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT 31,14,28, 33R, 29, 26,75,27,33A

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

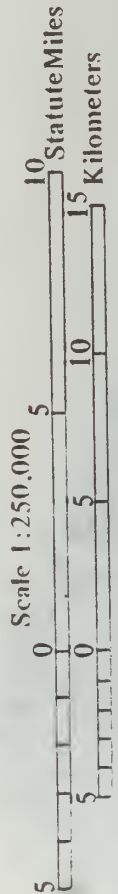
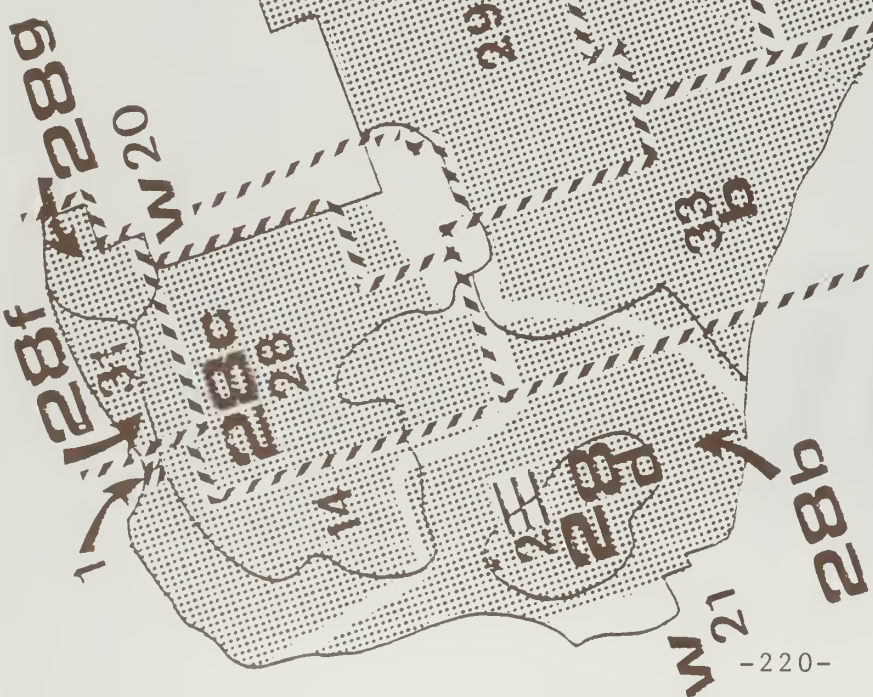
OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL 1

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED

2,3



MAP 32



## PLANNING UNIT #29

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Classes

a) The major portion of the planning unit is recommended as Class L to protect valuable wildlife resources, vegetation, and sensitive soils. This designation will allow motorized vehicle access for management of grazing, recreation, and mineral exploration. (29a, Map 33)

b) This section of the planning unit which lies to the west of Highway 395 is recommended as Class M. Its location adjacent to a highway on the east and the incorporated lands of California City on the west would make management in a more limited use classification unfeasible. (29b, Map 33)

c) This small portion at the north corner of the planning unit is recommended as Class M to provide for mineral exploration and development. Protection of sensitive resources will be provided by mitigation of permitted uses. (29c, Map 33)

#### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. The Western Mojave Desert Crucial Habitats Management Plan will include areas within this planning unit. The management objective is to protect and enhance crucial habitats located in the western portion of the Mojave Desert; especially those for the desert tortoise, and the Mohave ground squirrel. Completion of the plan is to be within five years. Long-term management of this area will require land acquisition and changes in livestock grazing practices.

#### 4. Grazing Allotments. This planning unit has four grazing allotments.

The Gravel Hills Allotment will remain as an ephemeral designation. The Allotment Management Plan is high priority, and will be developed to include the "Ephemeral Sheep Guidelines for Desert Tortoise Habitat." See Appendix XIII. (26, Map 34)

The Superior Valley Allotment will remain as an ephemeral designation. The Allotment Management Plan is high priority, and will be developed to include the "Ephemeral Sheep Guidelines for Desert Tortoise Habitat." See Appendix XIII. (33b, Map 34)

It is proposed that the majority of the Boron Sheep Allotment be subject to land tenure adjustment. The allotment will remain as an ephemeral designation. The Allotment Management Plan is high priority, and will be developed to include the "Ephemeral Sheep Guidelines for Desert Tortoise Habitat." See Appendix XIII. (22, Map 34)

The Monolith Cantil Allotment will remain as an ephemeral designation. The Allotment Management Plan is high priority, and will be developed to include the "Ephemeral Sheep Guidelines for Desert Tortoise Habitat." See Appendix XIII. (15, Map 34)



5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Area Plans are proposed.
6. Utility Corridors. The southern border of the planning unit coincides with Utility Corridor G which is adjacent to Highway 58.
7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class Guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Limited areas of known high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are present in this planning area. These mostly represent the remains of mining activity and historic travel. The prehistoric remains include a wide range of site types.
2. Native American. No Native American values were identified.
3. Wildlife. The planning unit contains a federally and state-listed species, the Mohave ground squirrel. A BLM sensitive species, the desert tortoise, is found in this planning unit. The golden eagle is also found here. A unique habitat found within the Planning Unit is the west Mojave saltbush community.
4. Vegetation. A portion of the western Mojave Saltbush unusual plant assemblage, and possibly one sensitive plant species, are present.
5. Wilderness. None.
6. Grazing. The Boron Sheep Allotment range condition is good. The Monolite Cantil Allotment range condition is good.
7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.
8. Recreation. This planning unit includes 20 miles of State-eligible scenic route on U.S. Highway 395. Major activities in the Planning Unit include camping, vehicle free play, target shooting, and some hang gliding.
9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. The northwest end of the area is adjacent to, and may include some of the Atolia Tungsten Mines. An unknown amount of gold ore was mined before 1953 from the Fremont Peak (Gateway) Mine. Five other gold prospects evidently did not produce because the grades were not high enough to be mined profitably at that time. About 40 unpatented mining claims are reported by the BLM.

PLANNING UNIT #30

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class. The entire planning unit is recommended as Class M to provide for vehicle-oriented recreation, grazing management and mineral exploration and development, while protecting wildlife resources, sensitive soils, cultural resources, and Native American values.

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The Kramer Hills, (ACEC #38) is in this planning unit. The purpose of the ACEC is to protect prehistoric values. (38, Map 33)

3. Wildlife. The Western Mojave Desert Crucial Habitats Management Plan will include area within this Planning Unit. The management objective is to protect and enhance crucial habitats located in the western portion of the Mojave Desert; especially those for the desert tortoise, and the Mohave ground squirrel. Completion of the plan is to be within five years. Long-term management of this area will require land acquisition and changes in livestock grazing practices. (W21, Map 34)

4. Grazing Allotments. The planning unit contains two allotments.

The Buckhorn Canyon Allotment will remain as an ephemeral designation. The Allotment Management Plan is medium priority, and will be developed to include the "Ephemeral Sheep Guidelines for Desert Tortoise Habitat." See Appendix XIII. (23, Map 34)

The Stoddard Mountain Allotment will remain as ephemeral range type. The Allotment Management Plan is medium priority, and will be developed to include the "Ephemeral Sheep Guidelines for Desert Tortoise Habitat. See Appendix XIII. (32, Map 34)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. The management of wild burros in the Kramer Herd Management Area (HMA) will be discussed in the low desert HMAP. The objective is to reduce the number of burros from 25 to 16. The priority for the Kramer Herd Management Area Plan is low and planned for completion by the end of Fiscal Year 1983. (J, Map 34)

6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor G forms the northern boundary of the Planning Unit. (G, Map 33)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There is one area which is an exception to the Multiple-Use Class Guidelines. The Kramer Hills ACEC (#38) is in an area of existing routes of travel. This area will be managed for approved routes of travel to protect prehistoric values.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. A few areas of recognized high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are present in this Planning Unit. In addition to the mining activity represented, there is evidence of prehistoric activities, mostly centered around lithic procurement.

2. Native American. This planning unit contains a locus for petroglyphs and pictographs, and a traditional collection area.

3. Wildlife. The planning unit contains a federal and state listed species, the Mohave ground squirrel. A BLM sensitive species, the desert tortoise, is found in the planning unit. Another important species found in the area is the prairie falcon. An important wildlife habitat found within the Planning Unit is the west Mojave saltbush community.

4. Vegetation. The planning unit contains three sensitive plant species, all candidates for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There is also a portion of an unusual plant assemblage, the Western Mojave saltbush community.

5. Wilderness. None.

6. Grazing. The Buckhorn Canyon Allotment range condition is fair. The Stoddard Mountain Allotment range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. There are currently an estimated 25 burros in the Kramer Herd Management Area. Range condition is good.

8. Recreation. Major activities in this Planning Unit include motorcycle free play and touring, four wheel drive free play and touring, camping, target shooting, and hobby prospecting.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. There are two principal areas of mineralization, the Iron Mountains and the Kramer Hills. In the Kramer Hills area there has been production of gold. There are occurrences of uranium, magnesite and feldspar. In the 1970s there has been considerable exploration for uranium here.

At Iron Mountain, limestone, marl, quartzite, and asbestos have been produced. There are also occurrences of clay, copper and mica.

The U.S. Geological Survey has classified the area as prospectively valuable for sodium, potassium, oil, and gas.



PLANNING UNIT **29,30**

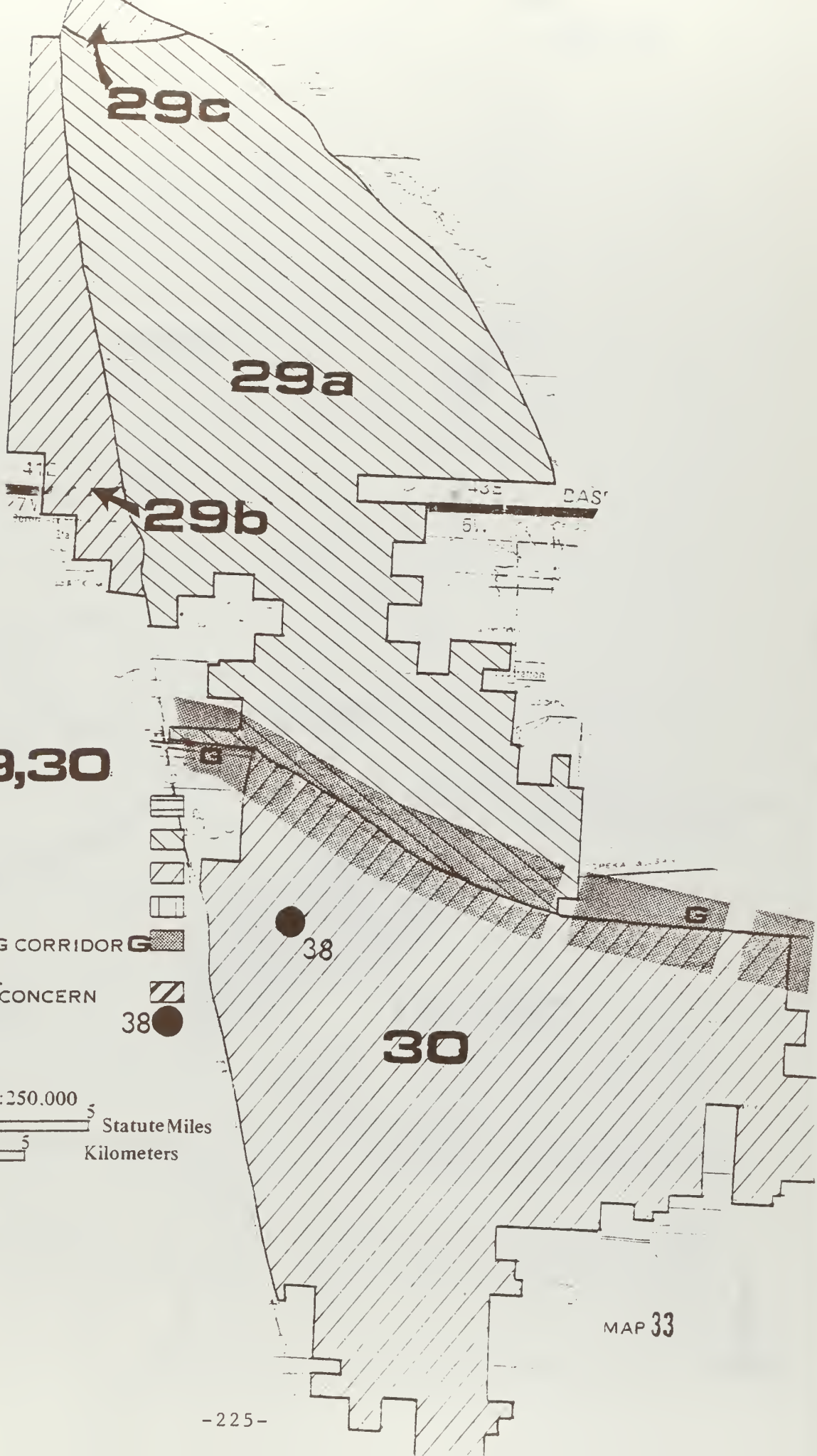
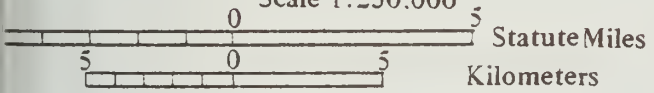
- CLASS C
- CLASS L
- CLASS M
- CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR **G**

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



Scale 1:250,000



MAP 33



29c

33  
b

15

29a

26

29  
b

22

Scale 1:250,000

Statute Miles

Kilometers

32 30

PLANNING UNIT **29,30**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **W21**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **J**

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **33b 15 26 22**

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS **32 23**  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL **1**

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED

ENTIRE AREA WITHIN HABITAT MGMT PLAN W21

MAP **34**

PLANNING UNIT #31

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class. Planning area #31 is recommended Class I to provide for continued ORV free play activities. (31, Map 35).
2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.
3. Wildlife. No wildlife habitat management plans are proposed.
4. Grazing Allotment. The Shadow Mountain Allotment will remain an ephemeral designation. The Allotment Management Plan is medium priority, and will be developed to include the "Ephemeral Sheep Guidelines for Desert Tortoise Habitat." See Appendix XIII. (30, Map 35).
5. Wild Horses and Burros. None.
6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor C passes through the southern part of the planning unit.
7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. There are no known areas of high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance within this planning unit. However, there is a large amount of private land in which no archaeological survey has been conducted.
2. Native American. No resources of Native American value have been identified.
3. Wildlife. The planning unit contains small areas of the habitats of the Mohave ground squirrel, a federal and state-listed species, and the desert tortoise, a BLM sensitive species.
4. Vegetation. No special vegetation values have been identified
5. Wilderness. None.
6. Grazing. The Shadow Mountain Allotment range condition is fair.
7. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Area Plans are proposed.
8. Recreation. Major activities within the planning unit include camping, motorcycle free play, and touring, four wheel drive free play and touring, and target shooting.
9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Dolomite has been intermittently produced for use as roofing granules since 1950 from quarries on the east flank of Silver Peak. Tungsten has been produced from mines on Silver Peak, and has been

identified at nine locations. Copper occurs with tungsten on Black Mountain. Copper also occurs in the southern Shadow Mountains, as does lead and zinc. Uranium occurs northwest of El Mirage Lake. Pegmatite dikes (a potential source of quartz, feldspar, mica and other minerals) occur north and west of Silver Peak. Extensive reserves of cement-grade limestone are found in the southern Shadow Mountains. In 1976, a company proposed to recover placer gold west of El Mirage Lake. The U.S. Geological Survey has classified portions of the area as prospectively valuable for sodium/potassium and oil and gas. As of December 1979, there were 96 unpatented claims recorded with the BLM.

# PLANNING UNIT 31

CLASS C

CLASS L

CLASS M

CLASS I

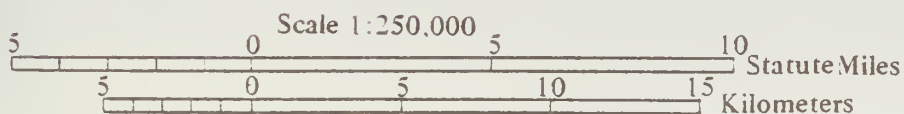
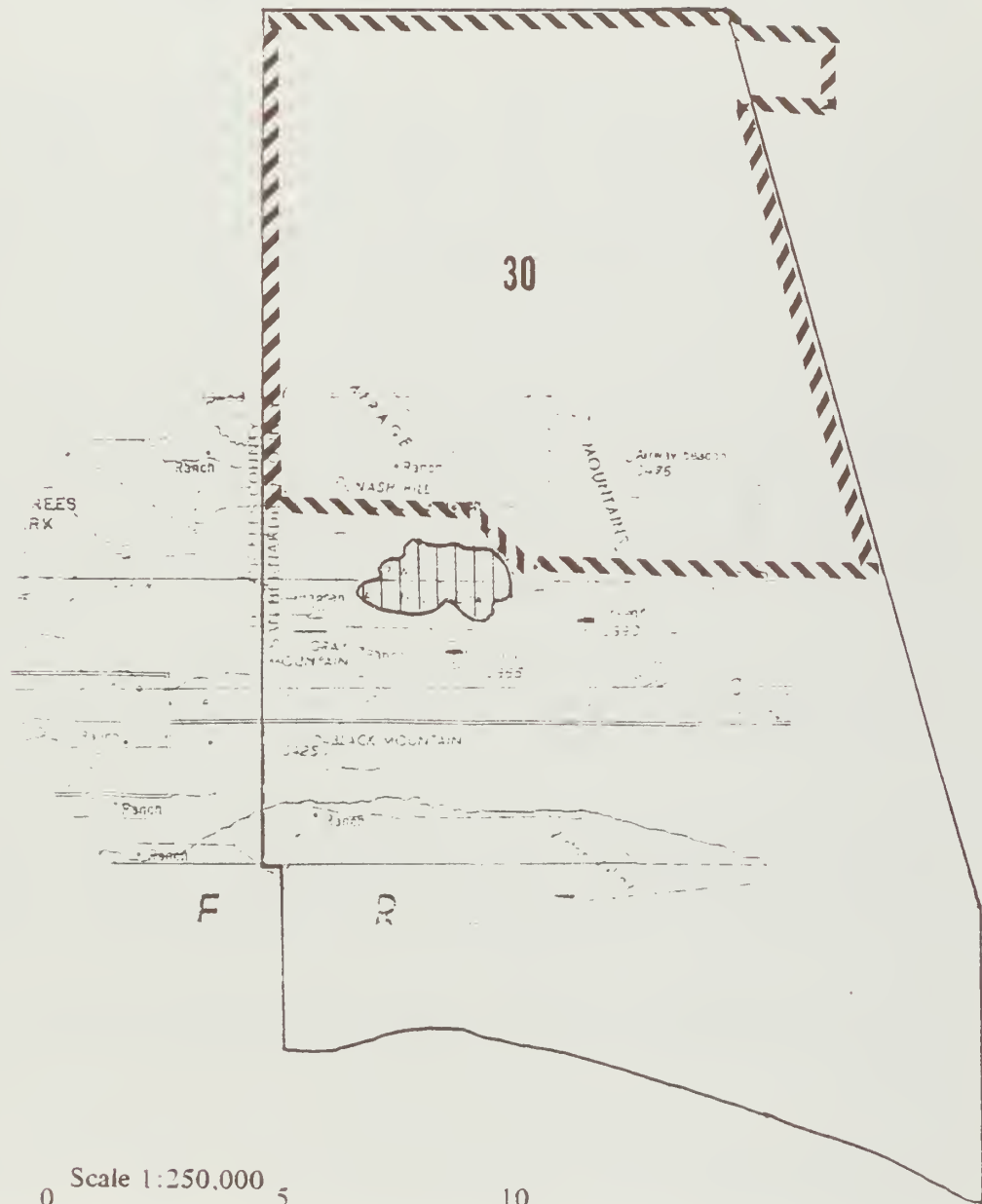
UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



GRAZING ALLOTMENT

30



MAP 35





## PLANNING UNIT #32

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class Guidelines

a) This portion of Planning Unit 32 is recommended as Class L to protect threatened and sensitive wildlife species, cultural resources, sensitive soils and Native American Values, while providing vehicle access for grazing management, recreation, and mineral exploration. (32a, Map 36).

b) This section of the planning unit is recommended as Class M to provide for recreation, grazing management and for exploration and development of lands which are high in mineral potential. This classification will allow for protection of sensitive resources and mitigation of damage due to permitted uses. (32, Map 36).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The planning unit includes three ACECs. The Goldsone ACEC (#27) is proposed to protect historic values. (27, Map 36). The Camp Irwin Military Boundary ACEC (#28) has the purpose of protecting prehistoric values. (28, Map 36). The purpose of the Rainbow Basin/Owl Canyon ACEC (#39) is to protect unique geologic and paleontologic features, prehistoric values, and outstanding scenic quality. (39, Map 36).

3. Wildlife. Two wildlife Habitat Management Plans are proposed for this planning unit.

The Western Mojave Desert Crucial Habitats Management Plan is partly within this planning unit. The management objective is to protect and enhance crucial habitats located in the western portion of the Mojave Desert; especially those for the desert tortoise, and the Mohave ground squirrel. Completion of the plan is to be within five years. Long-term management of this area will require land acquisition and changes in livestock grazing practices. (W-21, Map 37).

The purpose of the Superior Valley HMP is to protect and enhance wildlife values in the area, especially the Joshua tree association and Mohave ground squirrel habitat. Completion of the plan is to be within 7 years. (W-22, Map 37).

4. Grazing. There are three livestock grazing allotments proposed for this planning unit. The Goldstone Allotment will remain an ephemeral allotment, but it will be necessary that a minimum of 200 pounds of dry vegetation per acre be available before the livestock are turned out to graze. (24, Map 37).

The Superior Valley Allotment will remain as an ephemeral designation. The Allotment Management Plan is high priority and will be developed to include the "Ephemeral Sheep Guidelines for Desert Tortoise Habitat". See Appendices XIII. (33a, Map 37).

The Superior Valley Extension remains a proposed allotment but is reduced in size from the original proposal due to the wildlife and cultural resource concerns. The turning out of livestock is subject to additional wildlife

restrictions as discussed in the livestock element for ephemeral allotments. (75, Map 37).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. The Slate Range Herd Management Area is proposed. The tentative decision is for a reduction of wild burros from 804 head to 408 head. This number is subject to change based upon a high priority Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) being developed with the Naval Weapons Center and incorporation of their current data and analysis. The HMAP will include monitoring of both burros and bighorn sheep. (T, Map 37).

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are four exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines in Planning Unit #32. Superior Dry Lake, in an area of approved routes of travel, will be closed to vehicle access. (3, Map 37).

The Goldstone ACEC (#27) and Camp Irwin Military Boundary ACDC (#28), which are located in an existing routes of travel area, will be managed as approved routes of travel. (1,2, Map 37). The Rainbow Basin/Owl Canyon ACEC, located in an area of existing routes of travel, will be managed as approved routes of travel. (4, Map 37).

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Extensive portions of parts of the planning area are incorporated in known areas of very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance, while other portions of the planning area have scattered sensitive cultural zones. There is extensive evidence of historic mining and support facilities settlement. The prehistoric remains include the entire range of site types from simple to complex; these represent habitation, temporary camps, and specialized activity loci.

2. Native American. This planning unit encompasses numerous camp sites in association with traditional trails and areas of sacred mythical association to the Mohave as identified by Native American consultants. A historical Kawaiisu collection area also exists within the planning unit.

3. Wildlife. The planning unit contains a federal- and state-listed species, the Mohave ground squirrel. A BLM sensitive species, the desert tortoise, and the golden eagle and the prairie falcon are also found in the planning unit. A representative habitat found within the planning unit is Joshua tree woodland.

4. Vegetation. At least one and possibly a second sensitive plant species can be found.

5. Wilderness. The Black Mountain Wilderness Study Area (#186) is within this planning unit, and received a ranking of 53 out of the 137 Wilderness Study Areas.

6. Grazing. The Goldstone Allotment range condition is good. The Superior Valley Allotment range condition is good. The Superior Valley Extension range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. An estimated 804 burros occupy the State Range Herd Management Area. Range condition is fair.

8. Recreation. The planning unit contains one highly rated interpretive site, Rainbow Basin, and one heavily used educational area, Owl Canyon. Excellent opportunities for both hiking and backpacking exist in the Black Mountains, Opal Mountains and Calico Mountains. Major activities include camping, rockhounding, hunting and motorcycle free play.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. There is active production of roofing granules and decorative rock in the western Calico Mountains, and for placer gold at Coolgardie. On the eastern end of the Mud Hills active exploration for zeolites is continuing. There has been past production of gold at Goldstone and from the Olympus Mine in the Paradise Range. Placer gold has been recovered at Murphys Well, Williams Well, Coolgardie and Goldstone. Over \$100,000 of strontianite has been produced from the east end of the Mud Hills. Perlite and pumice have been produced from the Hicks and the Williams Quarries, respectively. The Starbright Tungsten Mine produced over 10,000 tons of ore containing 1.5 to 2 percent tungsten trioxide.

Additionally, there are occurrences of gold, copper, tungsten, barite, zeolites, uranium, feldspar, quartz, gemstones, pumice and reportedly molybdenum.

There are 11 patented claims and about 300 unpatented claims recorded with the BLM.

#### PLANNING UNIT #33

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

###### 1. Multiple Use Classes

a) This portion of Planning Unit #33 is recommended as Class M due to extensive past and present mining activity and the potential for continued mineral exploration and development. This designation will provide for vehicle access for recreational purposes and for management of a small grazing area while allowing for some protection of wildlife, scenic, and cultural resources from the impacts of permitted uses. (33a, Map 36).

b) This area is recommended as Class L to protect an area rich in prehistoric cultural resources while providing vehicle access for mineral exploration and for recreation. (33b, Map 36).

c) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for vehicle access for recreation and mineral exploration and development. (33c, Map 36).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The Calico Early Man Site, ACEC #40 is within this planning unit. The purpose is to protect a site of prehistoric human occupation. (40, Map 36).

3. Wildlife. A Habitat Management Plan for the Western Mojave Desert Crucial Habitats is proposed. The management objective is to protect and



enhance crucial habitats located in the western portion of the Mojave Desert; especially those for the desert tortoise and the Mohave ground squirrel. Completion of the plan is to be within five years. Long-term management of this area will require land acquisition and changes in livestock grazing practices. (W-21, Map 36).

4. Grazing Allotments. The Superior Valley Allotment will remain as an ephemeral designation. The Allotment Management Plan is high priority and will be developed to include the "Ephemeral Sheep Guidelines for Desert Tortoise Habitat." See Appendix XIII. (33a, Map 37).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Area Management Plans are proposed.

6. Utility Corridors. The planning unit is bounded on the southeast by Utility Corridor D and on the southwest by Utility Corridor G. (D, G, Map 36).

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. The majority of this planning unit is within known areas of high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance. The majority of the historic remains are associated with various mining ventures out in the Calico Mountains, while the prehistoric sites represent Pleistocene Manix Lake adaptation and subsequent Holocene occupation. The majority of sites are lithic scatters.

2. Native American. An historic Kawaiisu mesquite collection area has been identified by Native American consultants.

3. Wildlife. A BLM sensitive species, the desert tortoise, is found in this planning unit. Other important species found in the area include the prairie falcon, and the golden eagle.

4. Vegetation. At least one, and possibly two, sensitive plant species are present.

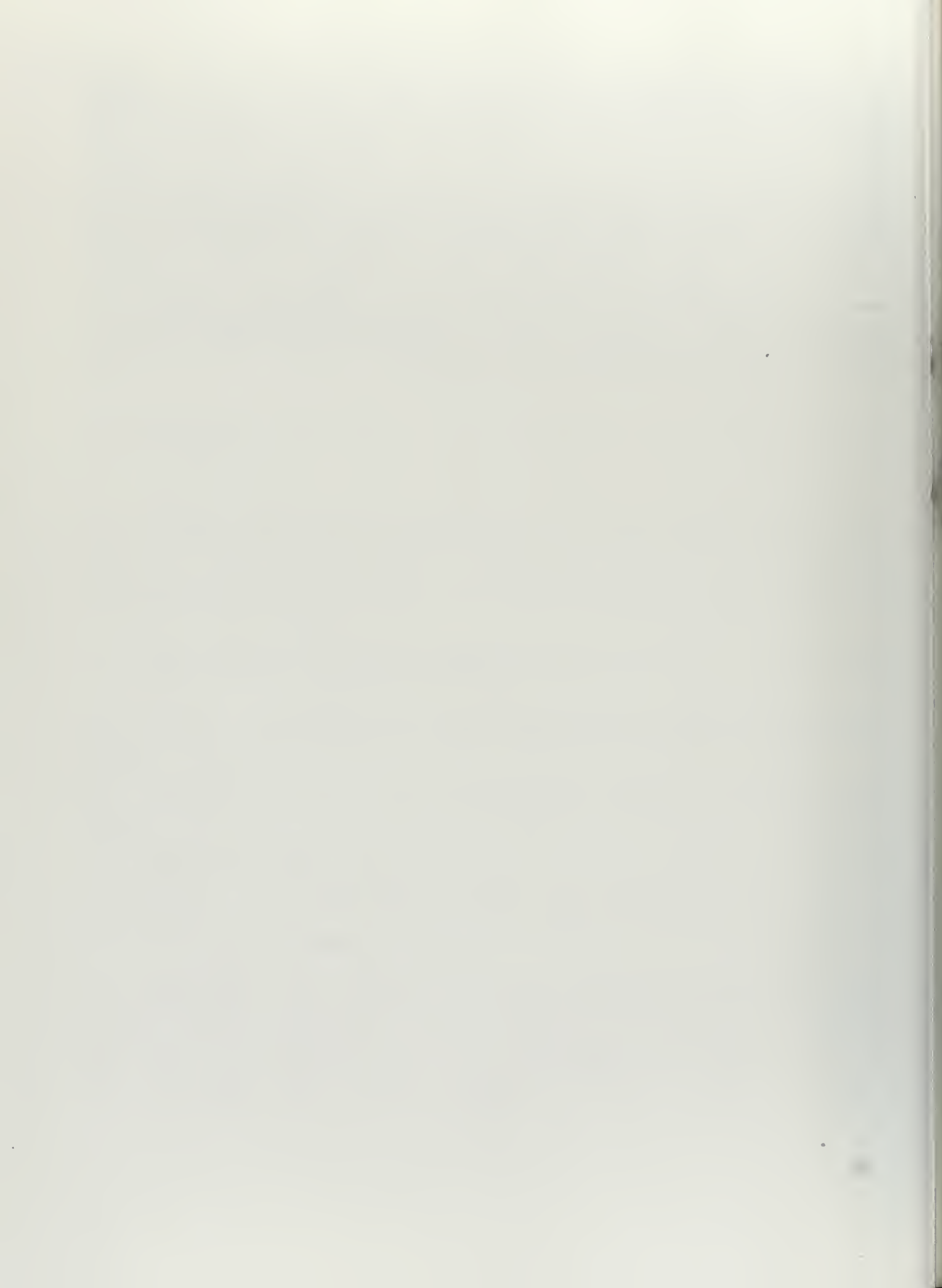
5. Wilderness. None.

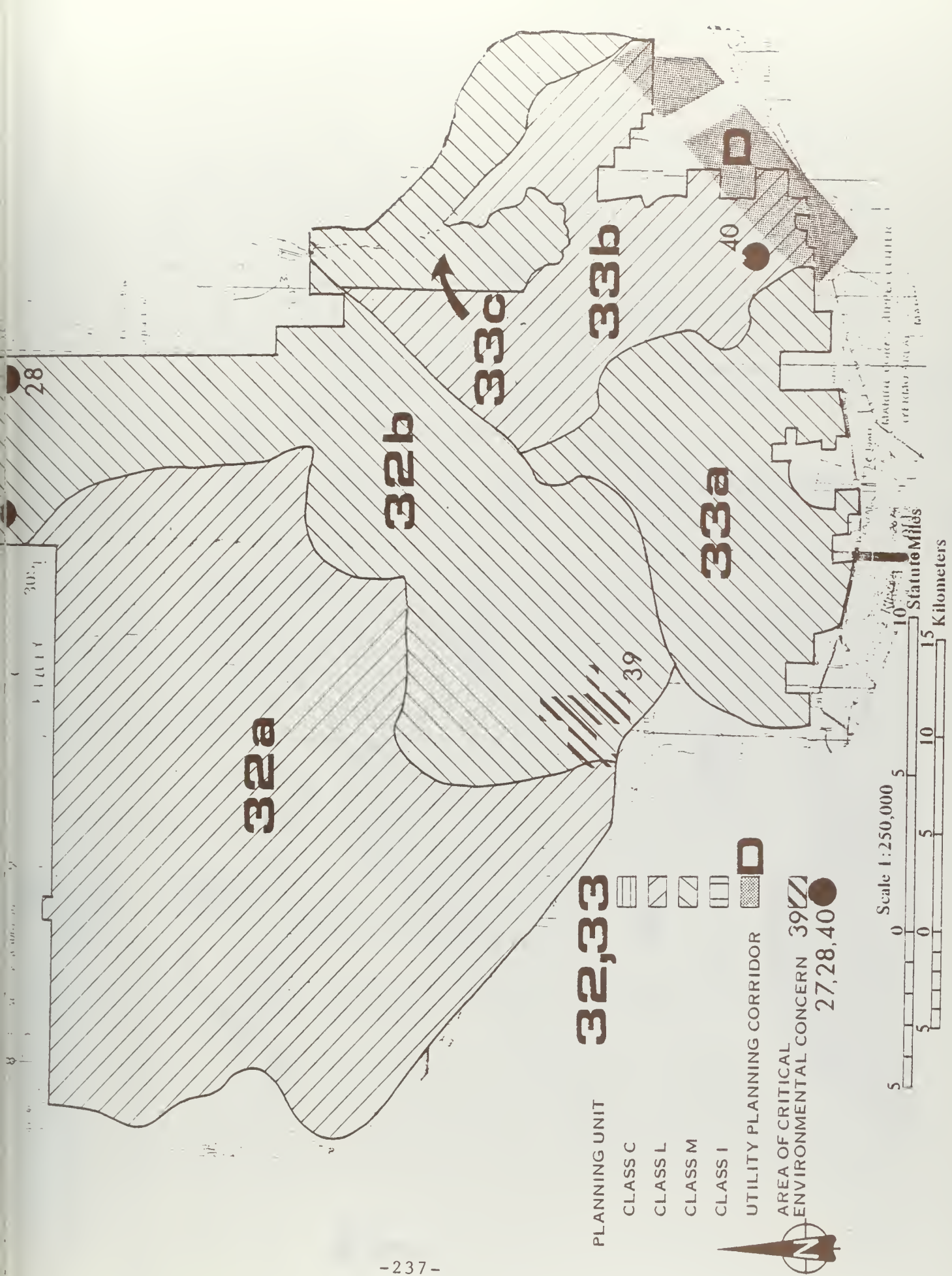
6. Grazing. The Superior Valley Allotment range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

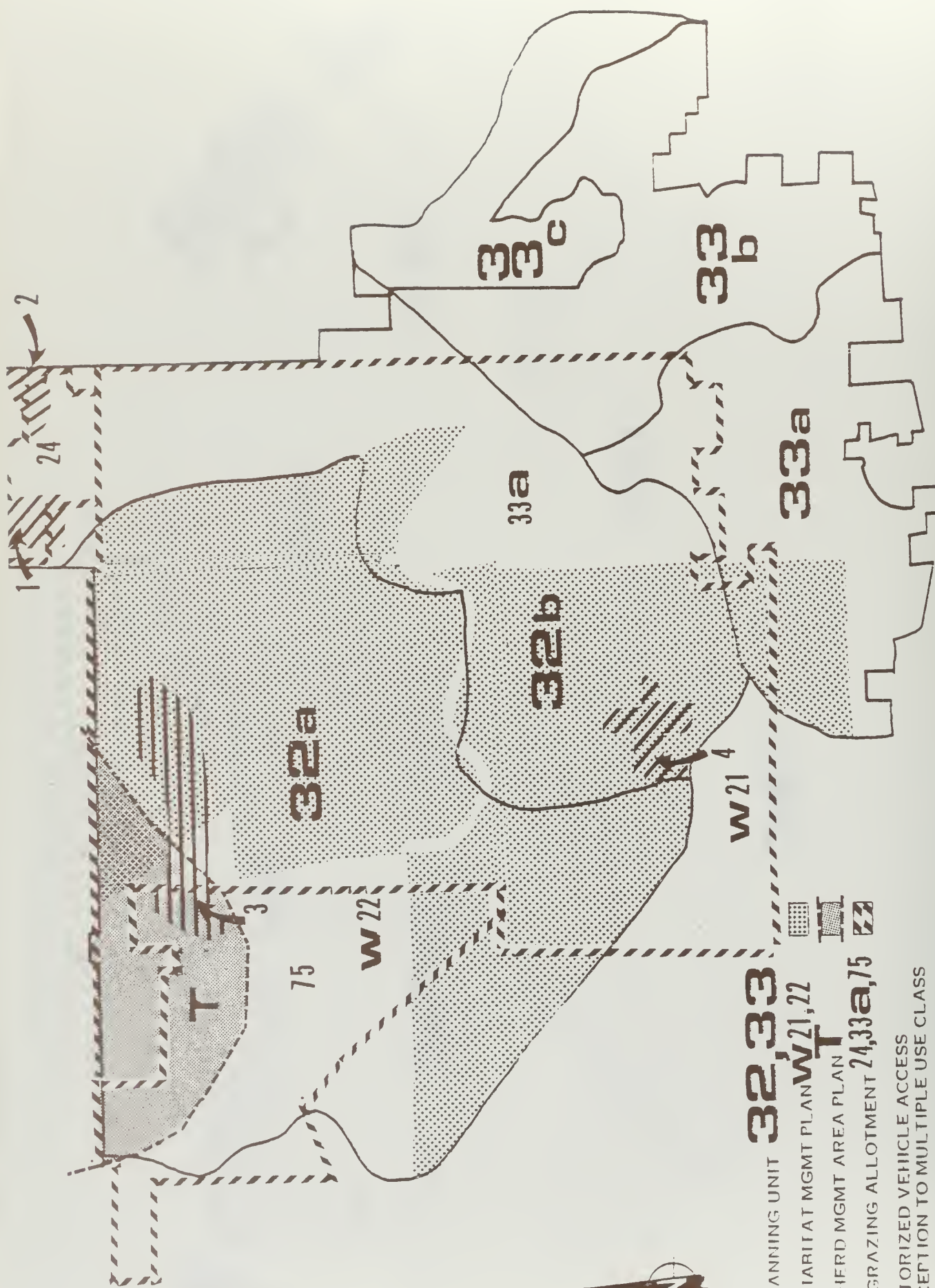
8. Recreation. There are excellent hiking areas in the Calico Mountains. The planning unit also contains two highly rated interpretive sites: the Calico Mountains strata, and the Calico Early Man site, which is also heavily used for educational purposes. 20 percent of the planning unit is rated as excellent scenic quality, primarily the Calico Mountains. Major activities in the planning unit include vehicle touring, target shooting, education/research, picnicking and camping.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. There is active production of gold at the Shining Dawn Mine on the north side of the Calico Mountains, and roofing granules and rock products are produced east of Barstow. Development at the ASARCO silver-barite deposit is continuing, and mining should commence in the 1980s. Estimated reserves of barite are 2.1-4.5 million short tons of silver 30 million short tons averaging 3 ounces per ton. Past production of silver from the Calico District between 1880 and 1896 is estimated at \$13 to \$20 million. Borate production between 1884 and 1907 is estimated at \$9 million. Borates have been produced at three mines. Barite was produced from two different mines. Sand and gravel have also been produced. There are several bentonite and zeolite occurrences and one occurrence each of uranium, magnesite, and wollastonite. Geochemical samples indicate potential for molybdenum, copper, silver, and barite. Hydrogeochemical samples at Coyote Lake are anomalous in uranium. There are 162 patented claims and over 307 unpatented claims filed with the BLM in this area.









PLANNING UNIT **32, 33**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **W21, 22**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **T**

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **24, 33a, 75**

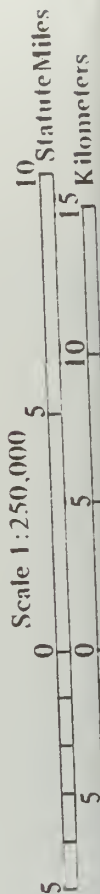
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL **12A**

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



## PLANNING UNIT #34

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Classes

a) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for vehicle access for recreation and mineral exploration and management of a small grazing area, while offering some protection for cultural resources through mitigation of permitted uses. (34b, Map 38).

b) This area is recommended as Class L to protect cultural resources, soils, Native American values, and wildlife, while allowing vehicle access for recreation and mineral exploration and development. (34a, Map 38).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife. There are no Habitat Management Plans proposed.

4. Grazing Allotments. The Cronese Lake Allotment remains as an ephemeral allotment but is now subject to a requirement that 200 lbs. of air dry annual vegetation must be present before the livestock are turned out to graze. For a more detailed discussion see the Livestock Element. (42, Map 39).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

6. Utility Corridors. Utility corridor BB runs along Interstate Highway 15, the southern boundary of the planning unit. Corridor D cuts through the planning unit from northeast to southwest.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Extensive portions of the planning unit are included within known areas of high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance, including zones of prehistoric and historic activity. The historic remains include evidence of mining and travel. The prehistoric remains are part of the Manix Lake complex and Little Lake Mojave complex. Some of the remains are associated with permanent water sources, in addition to those along the lake and Mojave River.

2. Native American. The planning unit contains salt and hunting camps mentioned in Mohave oral narrative; these are still of significant concern to Panamint Shoshone, Mohave and Chemehuevi.

3. Wildlife. The planning unit contains unique marsh and wetland habitat.

4. Vegetation. An unusual plant assemblage, a stand of Crucifixion Thorn, is within Planning Unit #34. There are also some mesquite thickets.

5. Wilderness. A portion of the Soda Mountains Wilderness Study Area (#242)

is within the planning unit. This Wilderness Study Area was ranked 67 out of the 137 Wilderness Study Areas.

6. Grazing. The range condition of the Cronese Lake Allotment is good.
7. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Area Plans are proposed.
8. Recreation. The planning unit contains approximately 30 miles of road eligible as a state scenic route, Interstate Highway 15.
9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Presently rock is mined north of Dunn Siding for roofing granules. In the past, talc has been mined north of Dunn, and iron has been produced to the northeast. In 1969, Southern Pacific geologists estimated the Cave Mountain iron deposit had reserves of 1,446,000 long tons that average 24.5% iron. Clay has been mined from east Cronese Lake. In, this vicinity there are numerous copper, gold or tungsten prospects. At Alvord Mountain gold has been mined. Limestone is held in reserve for future use. There are occurrences of tungsten and zeolites. There are 10 patented claims and 20 unpatented claims recorded with the BLM at Alvord Mountain (December, 1979). There are at least 83 unpatented claims in the Cronese Mountain areas.

#### PLANNING UNIT #56

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Classes. This planning unit is recommended as Class L to protect a large number of culturally sensitive areas and sites of Native American significance. Desert bighorn sheep range will also be protected. Class L will also provide some access for motorized vehicles for recreation and mineral exploration and development. (56, Map 41).
2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.
3. Wildlife. No wildlife Habitat Management Plans identified.
4. Grazing Allotment. None.
5. Wild Horse and Burros. No Herd Management Area Plans are proposed.
6. Utility Corridors. The Planning Unit is bordered by two Utility Corridors: D on the north and BB on the south. (D, BB, Map 42).
7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines in Planning Unit #56.

##### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. A high percentage of the planning area is heavily covered with zones of an identified high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance. Numerous prehistoric sites are associated with the old terraces of Pleistocene Lake Mojave and the subsequent lakeside adaptations. A wide range of site types is represented. The historic sites



include railroad features, habitation areas, transportation corridors and mining ventures.

2. Native American. Mohave oral narratives locate salt and hunting camps in this area; these have been verified by subsequent research. Camps are areas of concern to some Panamint Shoshone, Mohave and Chemehuevi.

3. Wildlife. No federally, state, or BLM-listed sensitive species are present within the planning unit.

4. Vegetation. No significant plant species or habitat have been identified within this planning unit.

5. Wilderness. One Wilderness Study Area is within Planning Unit #56. WSA #242, Soda Mountain, is rated 67 out of 137.

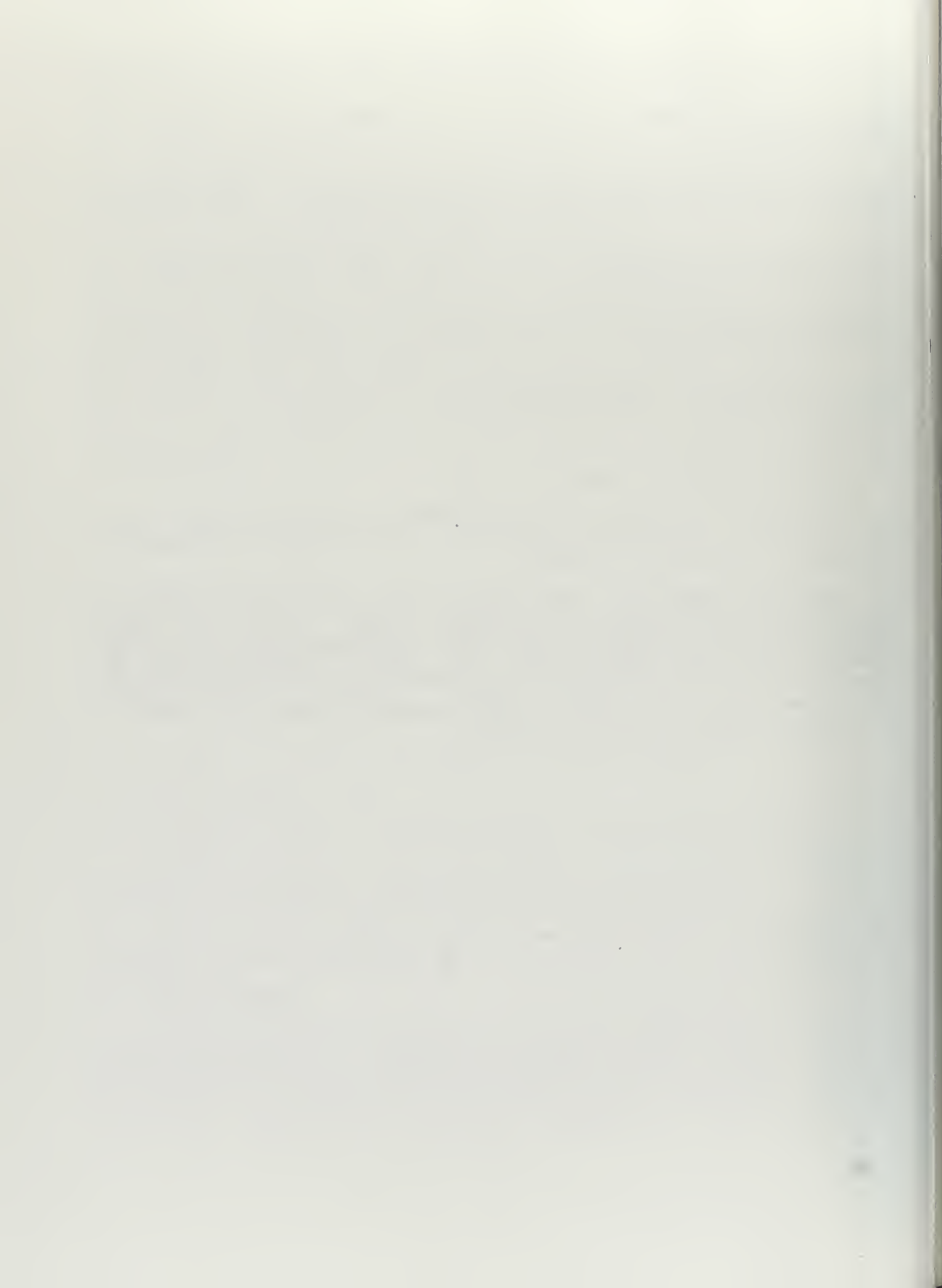
6. Grazing. None.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. Approximately twenty miles of Interstate #15 is eligible as a State Scenic Route. The major activities within Planning Unit #56 includes rockhounding, picnicking, and camping.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Small amounts of lead, zinc, copper, silver, and gold ore has been produced from two mines, the Blue Bell and Little Mike. There are six other mines that may be similarly mineralized. There are limestone deposits near Baker and Silver Lake. The U.S. Geological Survey has classified the Silver Lake Area as prospectively valuable for sodium/potassium and oil/gas. The Blue Bell Mine is patented. As of December 1979, there are 69 unpatented claims recorded with the BLM.





# 34,56

## PLANNING UNIT

CLASS C

CLASS L

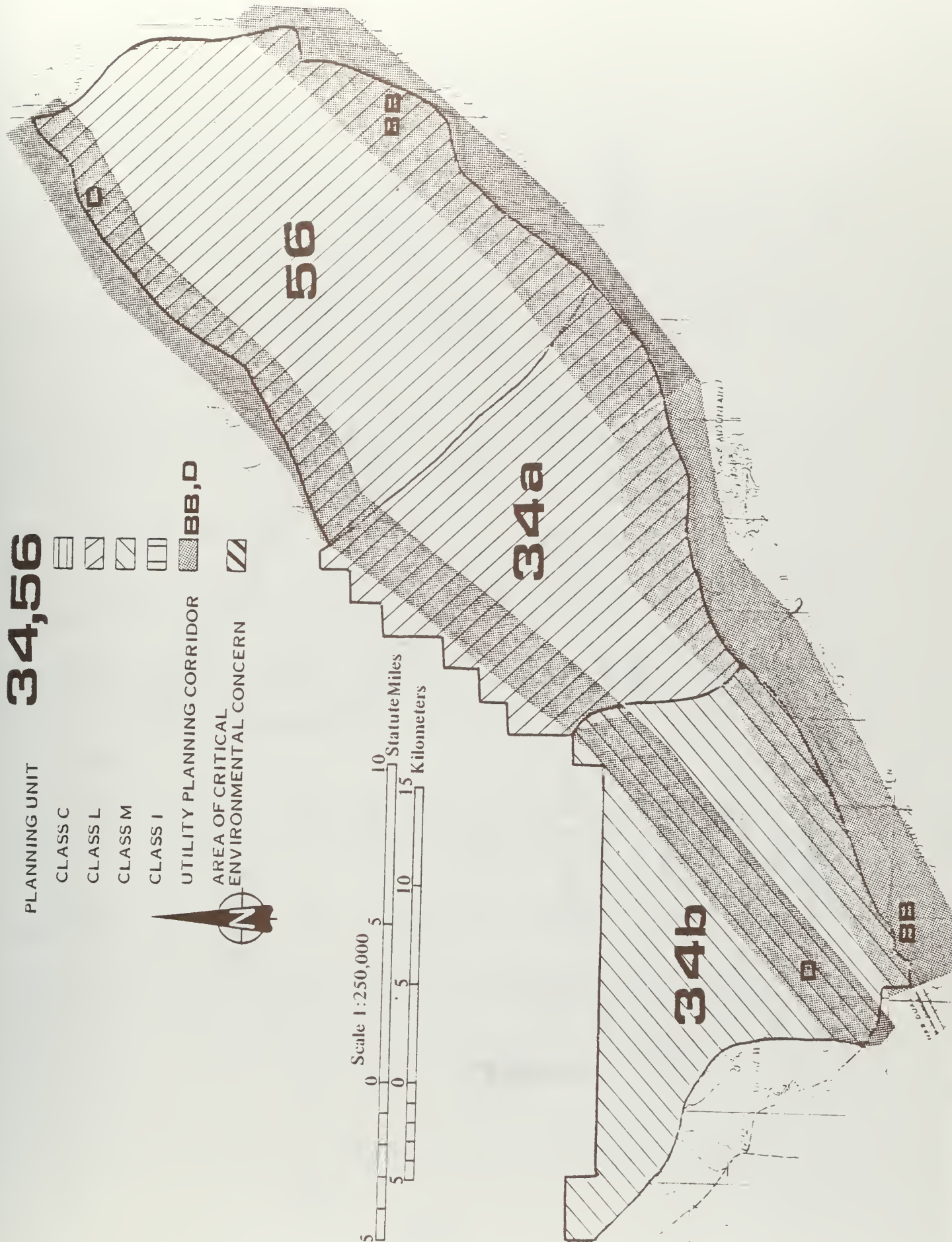
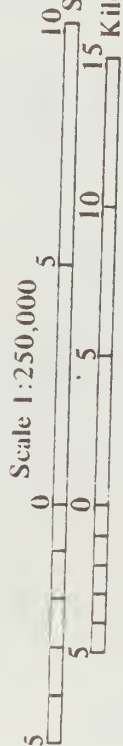
CLASS M

CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



# 34,56

PLANNING UNIT



HABITAT MGMT PLAN

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT 42

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

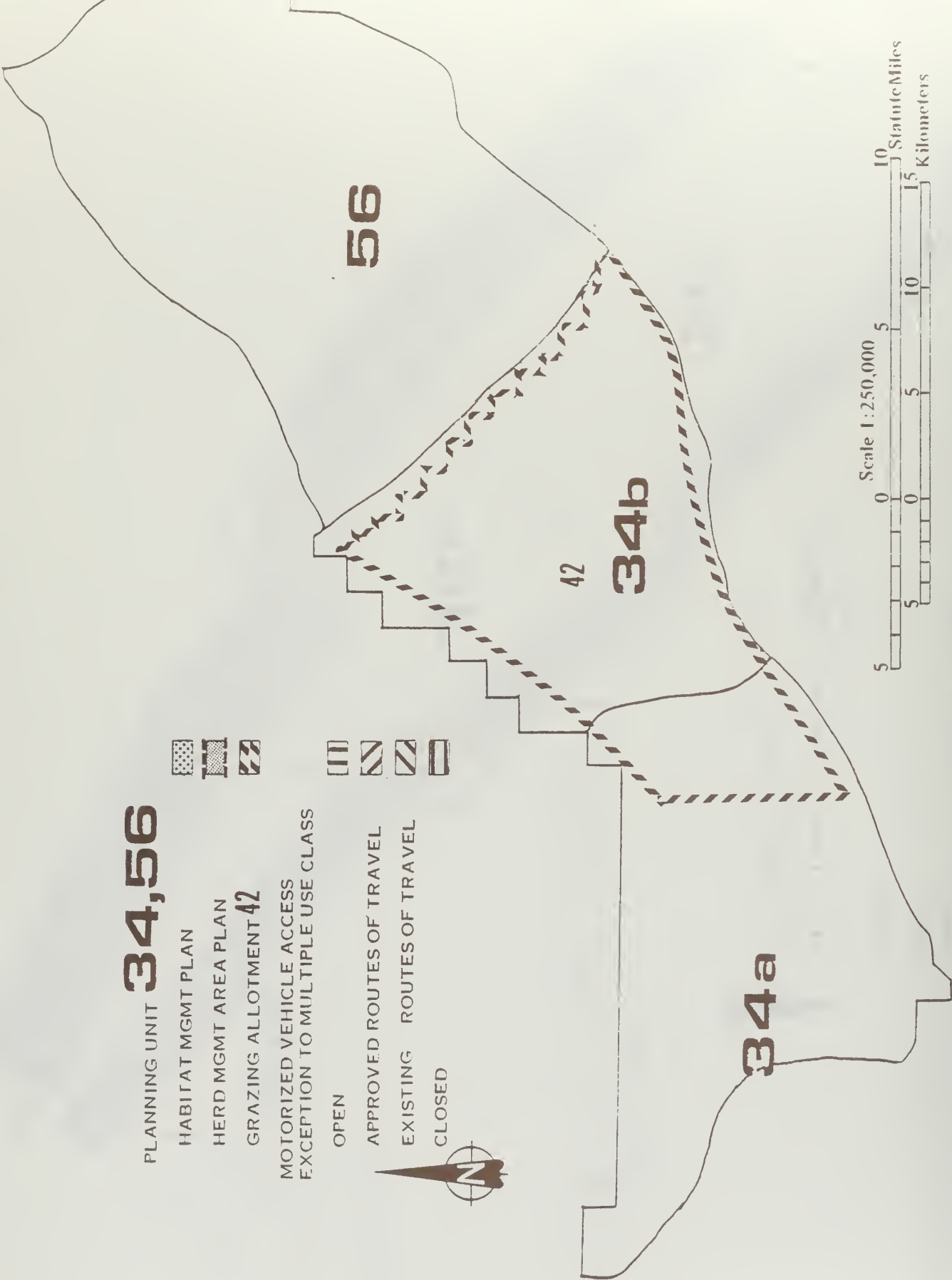
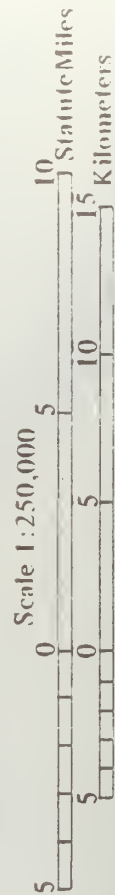
EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



MAP 39

-244-



## PLANNING UNIT #35

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Classes.

a) and b) - both sections of the planning unit are recommended as Class M to provide vehicle access for recreation and grazing management. The checkerboard land status throughout the planning unit would make management of a more restricted use classification unfeasible. (35a, 35b, Map 40).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The Silver Mountain Vicinity ACEC, #44, is within this planning unit. The purpose is to protect historic values of mining and occupation. (44, Map 40).

3. Wildlife. No Habitat Management Plans are proposed.

4. Grazing Allotments. The Stoddard Mountain Allotment will remain as an ephemeral designation. The Allotment Management Plan is medium priority, and will be developed to include the "Ephemeral Sheep Guidelines for Desert Tortoise Habitat." See Appendix XIII. (32, Map 41).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor "O" passes close to the western borders of the planning unit, while Corridor D coincides with a portion of the southeastern border. (O, D, Map 40).

7. Motorized Vehicle Access There will be one exception to the multiple use class guidelines in Planning Unit #35. ACEC #44, Silver Mountain Vicinity, an area of existing routes of travel, will be managed as approved routes of travel to protect historic values.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. The major area of recognized high cultural resource sensitivity/significance within this Planning Unit are represented by the facilities and remains of 19th century mining activity, oriented around the extraction of silver.

2. Native American. This planning unit contains an occupation site identified by Native American consultants.

3. Wildlife. A BLM sensitive species, the desert tortoise, is found in this planning unit. Other important species found in the area include the prairie falcon and the western pond turtle.

4. Vegetation. No special vegetation values were identified.

5. Wilderness. None.

6. Grazing. The Stoddard Mountain Allotment range condition is good.



7. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Area plans are proposed.
8. Recreation. Major activities known to occur in this planning unit include target shooting, camping, motorcycle free play, and four wheel drive touring/access.
9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Limestone is presently being produced from major quarries east of Oro Grande. There are also several quarries for silica which is used in cement manufacturing. Sand and gravel is mined a few miles north of Oro Grande. There are two quartz-sericite quarries on the west side of Silver Mountains which may be intermittently active annually.

Gold and silver have been produced from more than 10 mines. The area also contains two copper prospects and a former clay producer. There are 57 patented claims and approximately 38 unpatented claims in this planning unit.

#### PLANNING UNIT #36

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class (by Sub-area).
  - a) The northern portion of the planning unit is recommended as Class I status to provide for continuation of traditional ORV "open areas" play activities, and for mineral development. (36a, Map 40)
  - b) This portion of the planning unit is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, sensitive soils, scenic quality, cultural resources, and Native American values, while providing for vehicle access for grazing management, recreation, and mineral exploration. (36b, Map 40)
2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None
3. Wildlife. A Habitat Management Plan for the Newberry/Granite Mountains is proposed. The purpose is to protect and enhance wildlife resources, especially the raptor species which breed in this area. Completion of the Plan is to be within 5 years. (W23, Map 41)
4. Grazing Allotments. The Stoddard Mountain Allotment will remain as an ephemeral designation. The Allotment Management Plan is medium priority, and will be developed to include the "Ephemeral Sheep Guidelines for Desert Tortoise Habitat." See Appendix XIII (32, Map 41).
5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Area Management Plans are proposed.
6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor G crosses the northern corner of Planning Unit 36 (G, Map 40). Corridor D tranverses sub planning unit 36a. (D, Map 40) Corridor H crosses the southeastern corner of the unit. (H, Map 43).
7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

## B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. A few pockets of known high cultural resource sensitivity/significance occur within this planning area which represent both historic and prehistoric activity. The prehistoric sites, which constitute the bulk of the sites, are clustered around the water sources and where lithic materials outcrop. In addition, this planning area is crossart by the ancient Mojave Trail.

2. Native American. This planning unit contains numerous Serrano settlements areas and an aboriginal trail. Additionally, many other significant areas have been identified in Cahuilla and Chemehuevi myths.

3. Wildlife. A BLM sensitive species, the desert tortoise, and a proposed BLM sensitive species, the golden eagle, are both found in this planning unit. Other species found in the area include the prairie falcon.

4. Vegetation. No special vegetation values were identified.

5. Wilderness. None

6. Grazing. The Stoddard Mountain Allotment range condition is good. Considerations for this planning unit included the fact that ephemeral grazing is in need of standard guidelines for turning out livestock to graze. In some cases wildlife value considerations further the need for standard turn out requirements.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. Excellent hunting opportunities exist in the Stoddard Mountains, Stoddard Ridge, and North Lucerne Valley for upland game species including quail, chukar and rabbit. Major activities within the planning unit include motorcycle free play/touring, four wheel drive free play/touring, target shooting, camping, sightseeing, and model airplane/rocket flying.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Large tonnages of limestone are presently produced from two quarries in this area. Metavolcanic rocks, for cement manufacture, are quarried east of the Black Mountain operations. Pyrophyllite is produced from one quarry and there is a large sand and gravel operation in Wild Wash. Considerable amounts of gold have been extracted from the Sidewinder and Keystone Mines. Clay was produced between 1968-1972 from Deadmans Dry Lake. Quartz-sericite rock has been mined at three deposits. There are two former producers each of marble and iron, and one of magnesite. There is one iron occurrence and 6 gold occurrences which have not produced. There are 5 patented claims, and 43 unpatented claims registered with the BLM (December, 1979).



# 35,36

## PLANNING UNIT

CLASS C

CLASS L

CLASS M

CLASS I

F

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

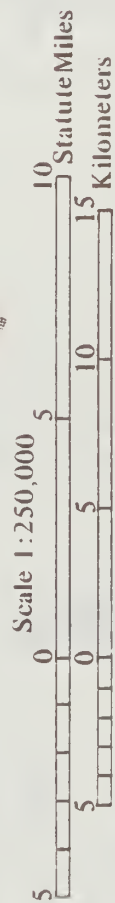
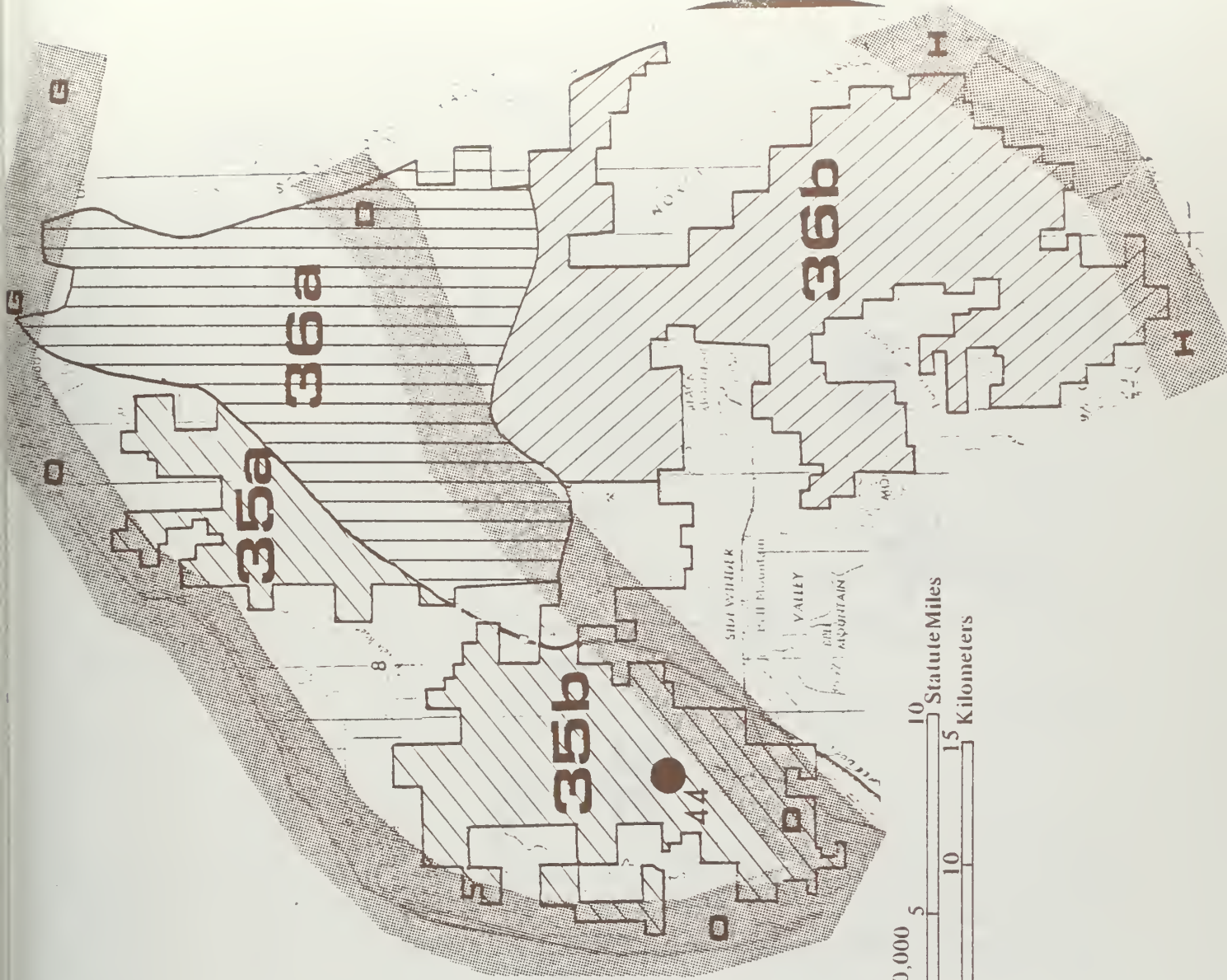
D, G, O, H



44



-249-



MAP 40



# PLANNING UNIT **35,36**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **W23**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **23,32**

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

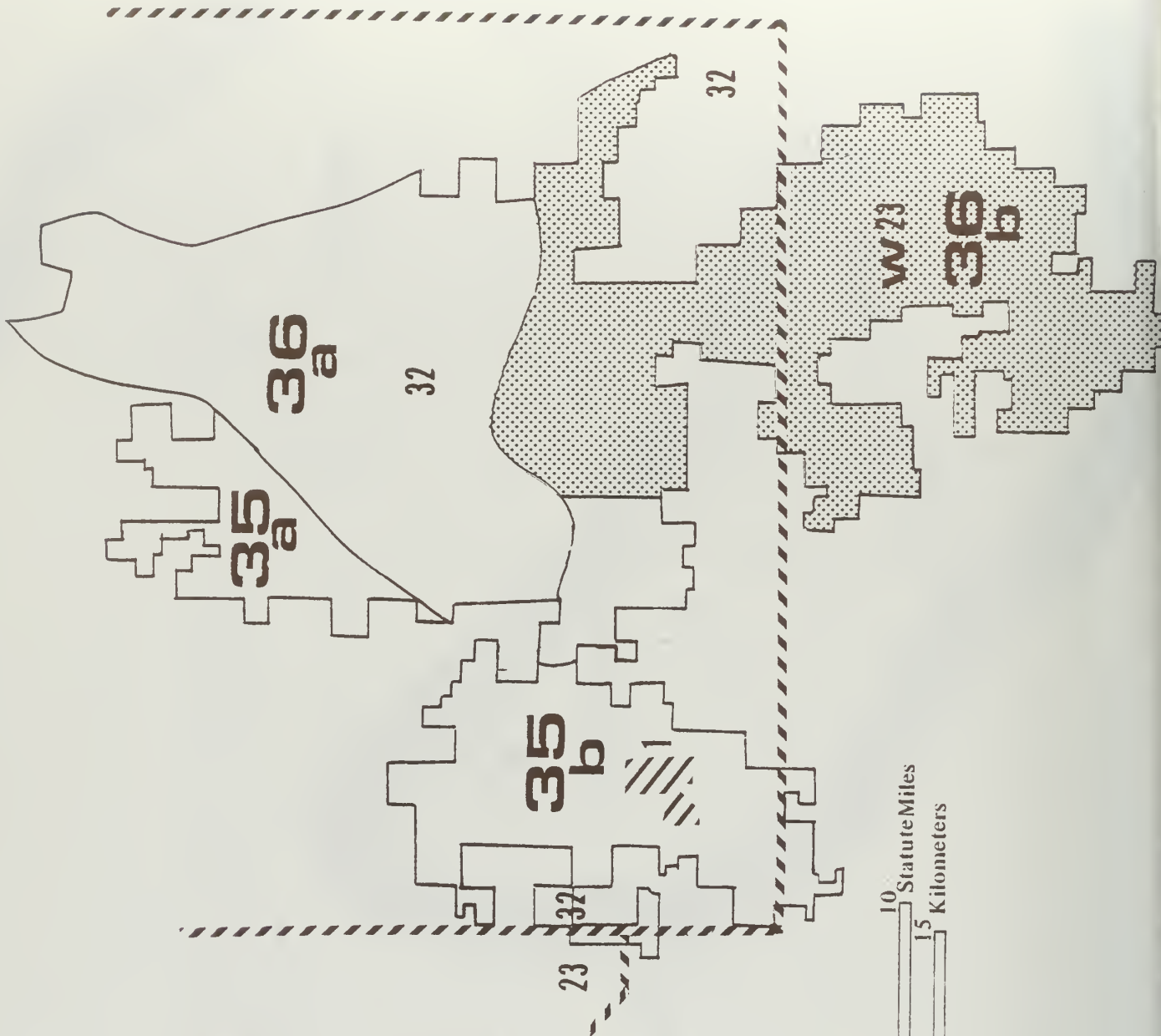
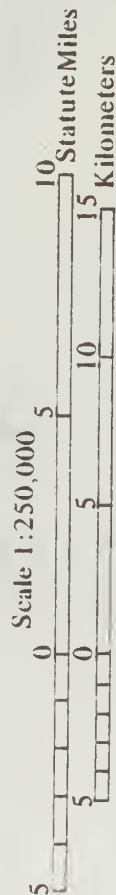
APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



-250-



## PLANNING UNIT #37

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Classes. Planning Unit #37 is recommended as Class L to protect natural and cultural resources, while providing for vehicle access for mineral exploration and production and grazing management. (37, Map 42)
2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The Juniper Flats ACEC, #45, is within this Planning Unit. The purpose is to protect the values associated with the historic mining and prehistoric occupation which occurred there. (37, Map 42)
3. Wildlife. No Habitat Management Plans are proposed.
4. Grazing Allotments. The Round Mountain Allotment is proposed and may be an ephemeral/perennial lease. (60, Map 43)
5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Area Management Plans are proposed.
6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor H coincides with the northwest border of the Planning Unit. (H, Map 43)
7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Virtually the entire planning unit is covered by an area of known very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance, consisting of both prehistoric and historic sites. The prehistoric sites range from simple to complex and are associated with the permanent water sources and the other seasonally available resources, including pinyon nuts. Many of the sites are situated in an ecotonal situation. The historic sites are related primarily to settlement and travel.
2. Native American. Native American sources have not indicated that this planning unit contains areas of religious importance. Secular values are unknown at this time.
3. Wildlife. The golden eagle, prairie falcon, and mule deer are found in this planning unit.
4. Vegetation. No special vegetation values were identified.
5. Wilderness. None.
6. Grazing. The Round Mountain Allotment range condition is good.
7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.
8. Recreation. The planning unit contains a major educational/research site south of Pitzer Butte. Major activities include four wheel drive free play,

motorcycle play, model airplane/rocket flying, picnicking and hiking.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Gold, limestone and dolomite are the principal commodities in this planning area. Limestone and dolomite occur west of Silver Creek and in the Ord Mountain/Juniper Flat area. Although there has not been production, the areas are under claim, and access roads and small quarries have been developed. As other sources become exhausted these properties will probably become active. In upper Grapevine Canyon there are four former gold mines. One mine has produced as much as 3,000 ounces of gold. There are six gold occurrences in lower Silver Canyon. In August 1980, a reclamation plan was filed with San Bernardino County, prior to beginning placer gold mining in Arrastra Canyon. The area near Round Mountain just south of BLM land has been classified as a Prospective Geothermal Resource Area (PGRA) by the U.S. Geological survey. There are four patented mining claims in Upper Grapevine Canyon, and approximately 22 unpatented claims recorded with the BLM in the Ord Mountain/Juniper Flat Area.

PLANNING UNIT

CLASS C

CLASS L

CLASS M

CLASS I

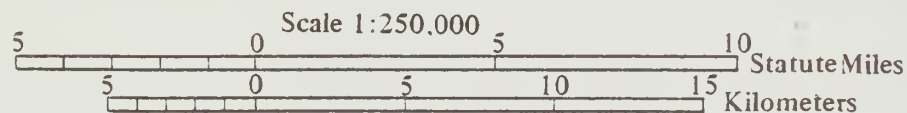
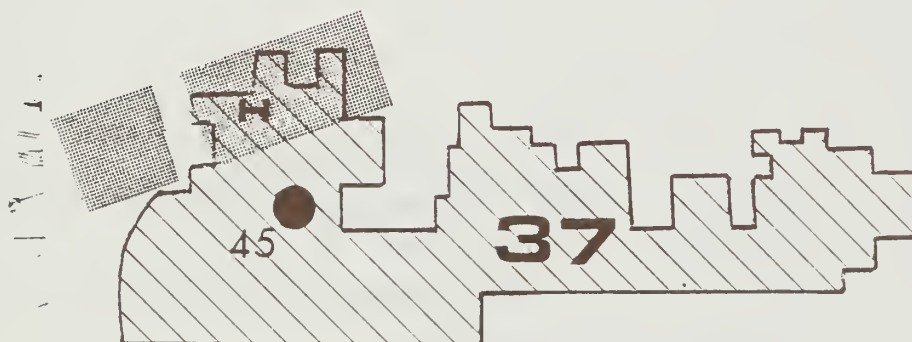
UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

37



45



MAP 42



# PLANNING UNIT **37**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **60**

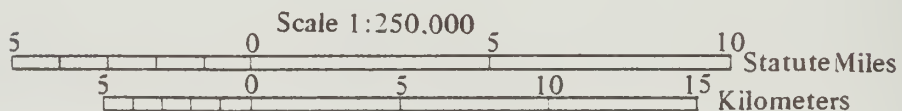
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



PLANNING UNIT #38

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Classes.

a) The northern half of the planning unit is recommended as Class M to provide vehicle access for mineral exploration and development, grazing management, and recreation, while conserving desert resources by mitigating permitted uses. (38a, Map 44)

b) The southern half of the planning unit is recommended as Class L to protect sensitive and significant wildlife species, unique vegetation, cultural resources, sensitive soils, and scenic quality while providing controlled vehicle access for exploration and development of an area high in mineral potential. (38b, Map 44)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife. A Wildlife Habitat Management Plan is proposed for the Newberry/Granite Mountains. The purpose is to protect and enhance wildlife resources, especially the raptor species which breed in this area. Completion of the plan is to be within 5 years.

4. Grazing Allotments. The Stoddard Mountain Allotment will remain as an ephemeral designation. The Allotment Management Plan is medium priority, and will be developed to include the "Ephemeral Sheep Guidelines for Desert Tortoise Habitat." See Appendix XIII. (32, Map 45). The Valley Well Allotment remains in ephemeral/perennial designation and maintains the present authorized use of 24 Animal Unit Months (AUMs). The Allotment Management Plan is low priority. (34, Map 45). The Ord Mountain Extension Allotment has been given an ephemeral/perennial designation, accompanied by an authorized use of 773 Animal Unit Months (AUMs). A high priority Allotment Management Plan will be developed and an enclosure will be established for monitoring. (69, Map 45). The Johnson Valley Allotment is a proposed allotment. It may be leased as an ephemeral allotment, but probably as an emergency forage area only. (58, Map 45). The Newberry Allotment changes from an ephemeral to an ephemeral/perennial designation, accompanied by an authorized use of 773 Animal Unit Months (AUMs). A high priority Allotment Management Plan will be developed and an enclosure will be established for monitoring. (35, Map 45).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Plans are proposed.

6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor D passes through the northern portion of the planning unit, while Corridor H runs through the southern portion. (D, H, Map 45).

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. A number of areas of known high and very high

cultural resource sensitivity/significance are scattered throughout this planning unit. Many of the site areas are associated with the numerous permanent water sources where sites are predicted to be located. Some evidence of historic mining is present.

2. Native American. Native American sources have not indicated that this planning unit contains areas of religious importance. Secular values are unknown at this time.

3. Wildlife. The desert tortoise, a BLM sensitive species, and a proposed BLM sensitive species, the golden eagle are both found in this planning unit. The only other important species found in the area is the prairie falcon. A representative habitat found within the planning unit is the jojoba association.

4. Vegetation. A portion of an unusual plant assemblage, the Ancient Creosote Bush Rings, is in Planning Unit #38. These are the oldest known and living plants in the California Desert - over 11,000 years old. The planning unit also contains the northernmost natural occurrence of jojoba.

5. Wilderness. None.

6. Grazing. The Stoddard Mountain Allotment range condition is good. The Valley Wells Allotment range condition is fair. The Ord Mountain Extension range condition is good. The Johnson Valley Allotment range is fair. The Newberry/Ord Allotment range condition is fair.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Area Plans are proposed.

8. Recreation. Excellent hiking opportunities exist in the Ord Mountains with a good area for both hiking and backpacking in the eastern end of the range. Excellent opportunities for upland game hunting exist in Stoddard Valley, the Ord Mountains, Daggett Ridge, and North Lucerne Valley. An excellent seasonal floral display occurs along the eastern margin of the Ord Mountains between Newberry and the Rodman Mountains. The planning unit contains one highly rated interpretive site (Harvey House) and one heavily used educational site in the Ord Mountains. Major activities in the planning unit include four wheel drive touring, motorcycle free play/touring, target shooting, camping and sightseeing.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Presently there is small scale production of copper from the east Ord Mountains. Exploration and development is continuing at the Red Hill molybdenum deposit. There also has been production of feldspar, tungsten, gold, borates, fluorite, and marble. Molybdenum occurs at two localities, copper at about 26, tungsten at three, gold at twelve, fluorite at two, and uranium at two. The water in Lucerne Dry Lake is anomalous in uranium. There are 13 patented claims and at least 185 unpatented claims recorded with the BLM.

PLANNING UNIT #39

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Classes.

a) This portion of the planning unit is recommended as suitable for Class C designation because of its wilderness qualities and to protect natural and cultural resources. (39a, Map 44)

b) This area is recommended as Class L to protect an area high in cultural resources and sensitive wildlife species and to provide limited vehicle access for mineral exploration and development in an area east of Box Canyon. (39b, Map 44).

c) This area is recommended as Class C to protect its wilderness values, wildlife resources, and cultural and Native American values. (39c, Map 44).

d) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for vehicle access for on going mineral exploration and development and to serve as a buffer between the large Class I - ORV open area in Planning Unit #38 and the more sensitive areas to the north. (39d, Map 44).

e) This area is recommended as Class M because of past mineral production and projected development of a large number of claims. (39e, Map 44).

f) This area is recommended as Class M to serve as a buffer between the Class C area at Newberry Mountain and the water diversion dikes parallel to Interstate Highway 40. (39f, Map 44).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife. A Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for the Newberry/Granite Mountains is proposed. The purpose is to protect and enhance wildlife resources, especially the raptor species which breed in this area. Completion of the Plan will be within 5 years. (W23, Map 45).

4. Grazing Allotments. There are three allotments considered for this planning unit. The Rodman Allotment was proposed but was totally eliminated from consideration due to cultural resource values.

The Newberry/Ord Allotment changes from an ephemeral to an ephemeral/perennial designation, accompanied by an authorized use of 773 Animal Unit Months (AUMs). A high priority Allotment Management Plan will be developed and an enclosure will be established for monitoring. (35, Map 45). The Johnson Valley Allotment is a proposed allotment. It may be leased as an ephemeral allotment, but probably as an emergency forage area only. (58, Map 45).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Area Management Plans are proposed.

6. Utility corridors. Utility corridor G forms the northern H boundary of Planning Unit #39. Corridor H crosses the unit from north to south. (G, H, Map 48).



7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. A major portion of the planning unit is incorporated within one area of very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance centered around the Rodman Mountains and another area centered around the Newberry Mountains. There is a wide diversity of site types including some unique sites that are part of a National Register District.

2. Native American. This region utilized by the Serrano contains many rock art, burial sites and villages.

3. Wildlife. A BLM sensitive species, the desert tortoise, is found in this planning unit. Other species found in the area include the prairie falcon and the golden eagle. The area is also a potential reintroduction area for bighorn sheep, a BLM sensitive species.

4. Vegetation. A portion of an unusual plant assemblage, the Ancient Creosote Bush Rings, is in Planning Unit #39. These are the oldest known living plants in the California Desert - over 11,000 years.

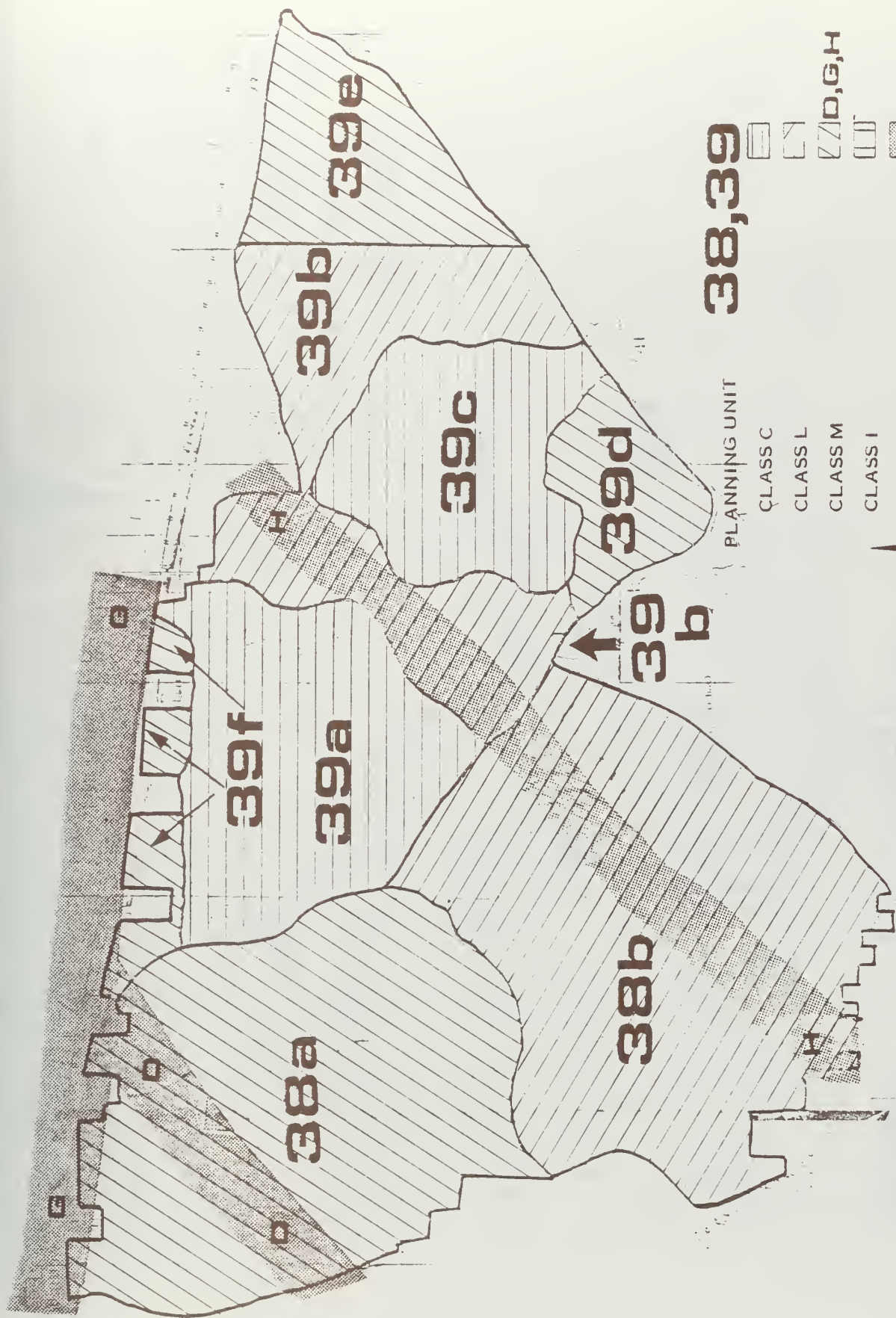
5. Wilderness. There are two Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) within the planning unit. The Newberry Mountains WSA (#206) was ranked 44 out of a total of 137 WSAs. The Rodman Mountain WSA (#207) was ranked 52 out of 137 WSAs.

6. Grazing. Cultural resource values were considered for the Rodman Allotment. The range condition of the Newberry/Ord Allotment is fair. The Johnson Valley Allotment range condition is fair.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. Excellent hiking/backpacking and upland game hunting opportunities exist in the Newberry and Rodman Mountains. The planning unit contains three highly rated interpretive sites. These are the Newberry Mountain Caves, Pipkin Cinder Cone, and the Rodman Mountain petroglyphs. Eighty-five per cent of the planning unit, primarily the Rodman and Newberry Mountains is rated as excellent scenic quality.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Roofing granules, sand, gravel, and rock (for use as railroad ballast) have been mined from the northeast end of the Newberry Mountains. There has been production of gold from the placer deposits at the Camp Rock Mine. Cinders have been produced from Malpais Crater. Copper, silver, gold and lead occurrences are concentrated in the Silver Bell-Silver Cliff Mine area at the eastern end of the Rodman Mountains, and northwest of the Camp Rock Mine. There are two occurrence of gold and one each of tungsten, manganese, garnet, and feldspar. There are also large, buried, patented iron resources south of the Rodman Mountains. As of December 1979 there were 37 unpatented claims.



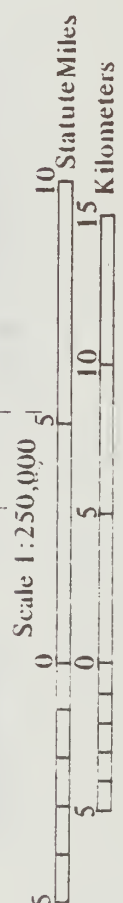
**38,39**

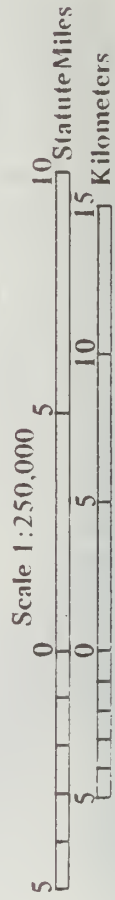
PLANNING UNIT

- CLASS C
- CLASS L
- CLASS M
- CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN







## PLANNING UNIT #40

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Classes. The entire planning unit is recommended as Class I to provide for ORV free play and competitive events in an area of historic use. Access is also provided for mineral exploration and development. (40, Map 46)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. There are two ACECs within the planning unit. The Upper Johnson Valley ACEC, #46, is proposed for the purpose of protecting a unique vegetation formation. (46, Map 46) The Soggy Dry Lake ACEC, #47, will also protect a unique vegetation formation. (47, Map 46).

3. Wildlife. A Habitat Management Plan for the Newberry/Granite Mountains is proposed. The purpose is to protect and enhance wildlife resources, especially the raptor species which breed in this area. Completion of the plan is to be within 5 years. (W23, Map 47).

4. Grazing Allotments. The Johnson Valley Allotment is a proposed allotment. It may be leased as an ephemeral allotment, but probably as an emergency forage area only. (58, Map 47)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Area Management Plans are proposed.

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Only a few scattered areas of known high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are present in this planning area, including separate areas of historic and prehistoric remains. The historic remains are mostly mining oriented while the prehistoric remains represent lakeside adaptation and various subsistence activities.

2. Native American. To date our consultants have not identified any resources of traditional religious concern. In addition, no resources of secular importance have been identified.

3. Wildlife. A BLM sensitive species, the desert tortoise, is found in this planning unit. Other species found in the area include the prairie falcon and golden eagle.

4. Vegetation. A portion of an unusual plant assemblage, the Ancient Creosote Bush Rings, is in Planning Unit #40. These are the oldest known living plants in the California Desert - over 11,000 years. Almost all of another unusual plant assemblage, the Ancient Yucca Rings, is also within the planning unit.



5. Wilderness. None.
6. Grazing. The proposed Johnson Valley Allotment range condition is fair.
7. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Area Plans are proposed.
8. Recreation. Upland game hunting opportunities are found in the Fry Mountains. Major activities in the planning unit include motorcycle play, competition, and touring, four wheel drive plan/touring, camping, target shooting and sightseeing.
9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Iron Ridge and the northern Fry Mountains contain measured reserves of iron in several separate deposits. Gold, copper, and silver deposits in the Fry Mountains and the Emerson Mountains have produced metals in the past. Several saleable mineral commodities including rock and dimension stone, roofing granules, cinders, and sand and gravel also have been removed from this planning area. There is potential here for uranium and saline minerals as well as the other mineral commodities mentioned above. Sixteen patented claims and 195 unpatented claims have been recorded.

#### PLANNING UNIT #41

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

##### 1. Multiple Use Class.

- a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect high sensitivity cultural resources and wildlife, vegetative and scenic values. This class will provide vehicle access on approved routes for mineral exploration and development. (41a, Map 46).
- b) This area is recommended as Class C because of its high wilderness and resource values. (41b, map 46)
- c) This area is recommended as Class C because of its high wilderness and resource values. (41b, Map 46).
- c) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, vegetative, and cultural resources, while providing for vehicle access for mineral exploration. (41c, Map 46).

##### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

##### 3. Wildlife. No special wildlife plans are proposed.

4. Grazing Allotment. The Rattlesnake Canyon allotment has been changed from a perennial to an ephemeral/perennial type. The allotment is 1044 Animal Units per Month (AUM) year round. It is a medium priority AMP. The proposed expansion of this allotment, the Rattlesnake Canyon extension, is also ephemeral/perennial range type. (36, 57, Map 47).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Area Management Plans will be prepared in this planning unit.

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Large portions of Planning Unit #41 include areas of identified high and very high cultural resources sensitivity/significance, including zones of both prehistoric and historic resources. The area receives relatively high rainfall, and includes pinyon pines; both are reliable predictors of prehistoric activity. In addition the area includes ecotones which were attractive to aboriginal occupants because they provided access to natural resources of two or more vegetative communities.

2. Native American. No resources of traditional religious or secular concern have been identified.

3. Wildlife. This planning unit has a variety of wildlife values including the BLM "sensitive" desert bighorn sheep. Other important species include the golden eagle, the prairie falcon, and the mule deer. The Bighorn Mountains is one of the five areas in the California Desert Conservation Area where it may be possible to reintroduce desert bighorn sheep.

4. Vegetation. The planning unit contains four sensitive plant species. also present in this planning unit are the world's largest Joshua trees in the Pipes Canyon region.

5. Wilderness. Wilderness Study Area #217, Bighorn Mountains, is ranked 26 of 137.

6. Grazing. The Rattlesnake Canyon Allotment range condition is good. The Rattlesnake Canyon extension range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. There are excellent hiking/backpacking opportunities in the foothills south of the Bighorn Mountains. Excellent floral displays are found along Old Woman Springs Road (State Highway 247). The area contains one highly rated interpretive site, the Blackhawk landslide. Forty percent of planning area is rated excellent in scenic quality, and the Lucerne Valley/Yucca Valley Road (30 miles) was found eligible as a State Scenic Route.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Limestone is currently produced from two mines. Identified resources occurring in the planning unit also include gold, silver, lead, copper, thorium, uranium, limestone, mica, roofing granules, feldspar, silica (quartz), clay, and sand and gravel. A small region near Silver Peak is prospectively valuable for geothermal resources.



# 40,41

PLANNING UNIT

- CLASS C
- CLASS L
- CLASS M
- CLASS I
- UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR
- AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



46.47

46

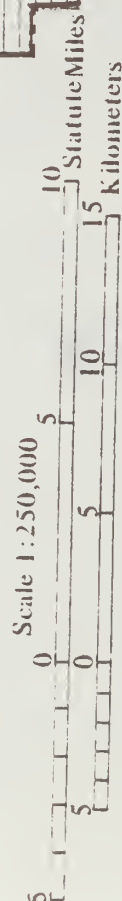
40

47

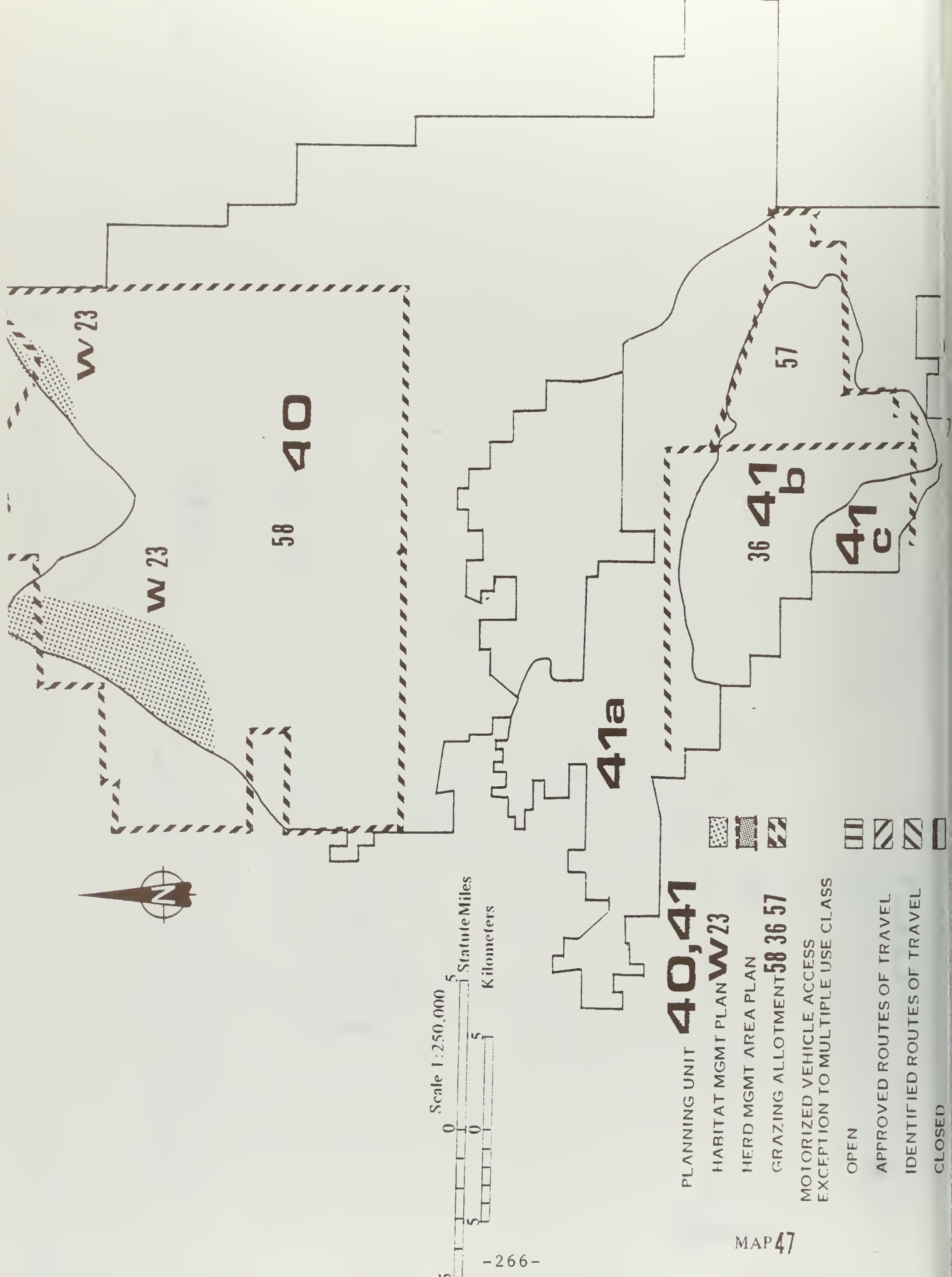
41a

41b

41c







PLANNING UNIT #42

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class.

a) The majority of Planning Unit #42 is recommended as Class L to protect primitive qualities, high scenic quality, sensitive wildlife species, riparian habitat, sensitive cultural resources, and high Native American values. This designation will also provide vehicle access for mineral exploration and development and management of wild horses and burros. (42a, Map 48).

b. This small areas adjacent to the southern border of Planning Unit #42 is recommended as Class M to provide access for exploration and development of potentially mineralized areas. (42b, Map 48).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the upper Amargosa River. The objective is to manage this area to ensure protection of the wildlife habitat and its occupants, especially the mesquite association bordering the Amargosa River. Completion of the plan will be within seven years. Long-term mangement will require removal of feral horses and burros and protection of water sources. (W-14, Map 49).

4. Grazing Allotment Part of the Proposed Death Valley Junction Allotment is in the planning unit. The allotment has 1370 AUMs potentially available. (66, Map 49).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Part of the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area (HMA) extends into Planning Unit No. 42. The HMA population will remain at 28 wild horses and 28 burros. The management of this HMA is discussed in the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The HMAP is low priority and completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1983. The HMAP will be written cooperatively with the BLM Las Vegas District. (C, Map 49).

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the Multiple Use guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. One major area of recognized very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance is centered along the Amargosa River. A wide range of site types is represented that appears related to riverine adaptation.

2. Native American. This planning unit includes regions presently used by contemporary Panamint Shoshone and some Grapevine/Pahrump area Piute, for both religious and secular activities.

3. Wildlife. The Nevada speckled dace and the desert bighorn sheep are BLM

listed sensitive species. Other important species include the Amargosa vole, the prairie falcon, and the golden eagle.

4. Vegetation. The Amargosa River riparian area is an unusual plant assemblage which occurs in this planning area. About three miles east of Death Valley Junction, a small area of the Carson sink will soon be developed as critical habitat for Nitrophila mohavensis, a sensitive plant species which will be listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service later this year.

5. Wilderness. Wilderness Study Area No. 143, the Funeral Mountains, is ranked 39 of 137.

6. Grazing. The Death Valley Junction Allotment range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. The number of wild horses and burros will be limited to 28 each until monitoring shows available forage for additional allocation.

8. Recreation. Excellent hiking/backpacking opportunities are found in Funeral Mountains. Forty percent of planning area is rated as excellent scenic quality (Funeral Mountains). A State eligible scenic route (30 miles) is contained in planning area (State routes 190 and 127).

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Hectorite and mineral whiting are currently being mined near Franklin Well. In the past, bentonite, and sand and gravel have been extracted from the planning area. Sepiolite, tufa, limestone, and possibly zeolites also occur here. The U.S. Geological Survey classified this area prospectively valuable for oil, gas, geothermal, and saline resources.

#### PLANNING UNIT #43

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

###### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, primitive characteristics (WSA #147), high scenic quality, Native American values, and cultural resources, while providing access for mineral exploration and development and wild horse and burro management. (43a, Map 48).

b) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for mineral exploration and development while providing protection of desert resources and Native American values from impacts of permitted uses. (43b, Map 48).

c) This area is designated Class I because of existing mining operations. (43c, Map 48).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The planning unit contains ACEC #9, Greenwater Canyon, which has been identified to protect prehistoric, and Native American values. See Appendix IV. (9, Map 48).

3. Wildlife. No special plans will be prepared.

4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Part of the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area (HMA) extends into this planning unit. The HMA population will remain at 28 wild horses and 28 burros. The management of this HMA is discussed in the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The HMAP is low priority and completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1983. The HMAP will be prepared cooperatively with the Las Vegas District. (c, Map 49).

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are two exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines. A vehicle closure in ACEC #9 will protect highly sensitive and valuable cultural resource/Native American sites located within Greenwater Canyon. (2, Map 49). Sub-Planning Unit 43C, designated as Class I for mining, will be managed for access on existing routes of travel. (1, Map 49).

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. A few areas of known high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are scattered throughout this planning area. The majority of the sites are lithic scatters, although in one portion of this planning area a large proportion of the sites are rock shelters and caves. A wide diversity of site types is represented from the simple to the complex.

2. Native American. The Panamint Shoshone and Southern Utes use this area for berry picking. In addition, a Southern Ute trail exists in this region.

3. Wildlife. The planning unit contains desert bighorn sheep, a sensitive species, and the golden eagle.

4. Vegetation. No special vegetation values were identified.

5. Wilderness. Wilderness Study Area (WSA) #147, Greenwater Range, is shared by Planning Units #43 and #45. This WSA is ranked 86 of 137.

6. Grazing. None.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. The range condition in the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area is fair.

8. Recreation. There are excellent (but limited) hiking/backpacking opportunities near Deadman Pass.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. There are 15 active borate mines, eight former borate producers and/or reserves, and numerous borate occurrences in this planning area. Deposits in this region, including Death Valley, Planning Unit No. 44, and in the Boron region, provide most of the borates for the U.S. and the noncommunist worlds. Copper, barite, limestone, and agate also occur here. There is high potential for discoveries or development of these mineral resources.



PLANNING UNIT #45

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class. This area is recommended as Class L to protect primitive qualities, wildlife resources, highly sensitive cultural resources and Native American values. (45, Map 47).
2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.
3. Wildlife. No special plans will be prepared.
4. Grazing Allotments. None.
5. Wild Horses and Burros. Part of the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area (HMA) extends into Planning Unit #43. The HMA population will remain at 28 wild horses and 28 burros. The management of this HMA is discussed in the Chicago Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The HMAP is low priority and completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1983. The HMAP will be prepared cooperatively with the Las Vegas District. (c, Map 48).
6. Utility Corridors. None.
7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines.

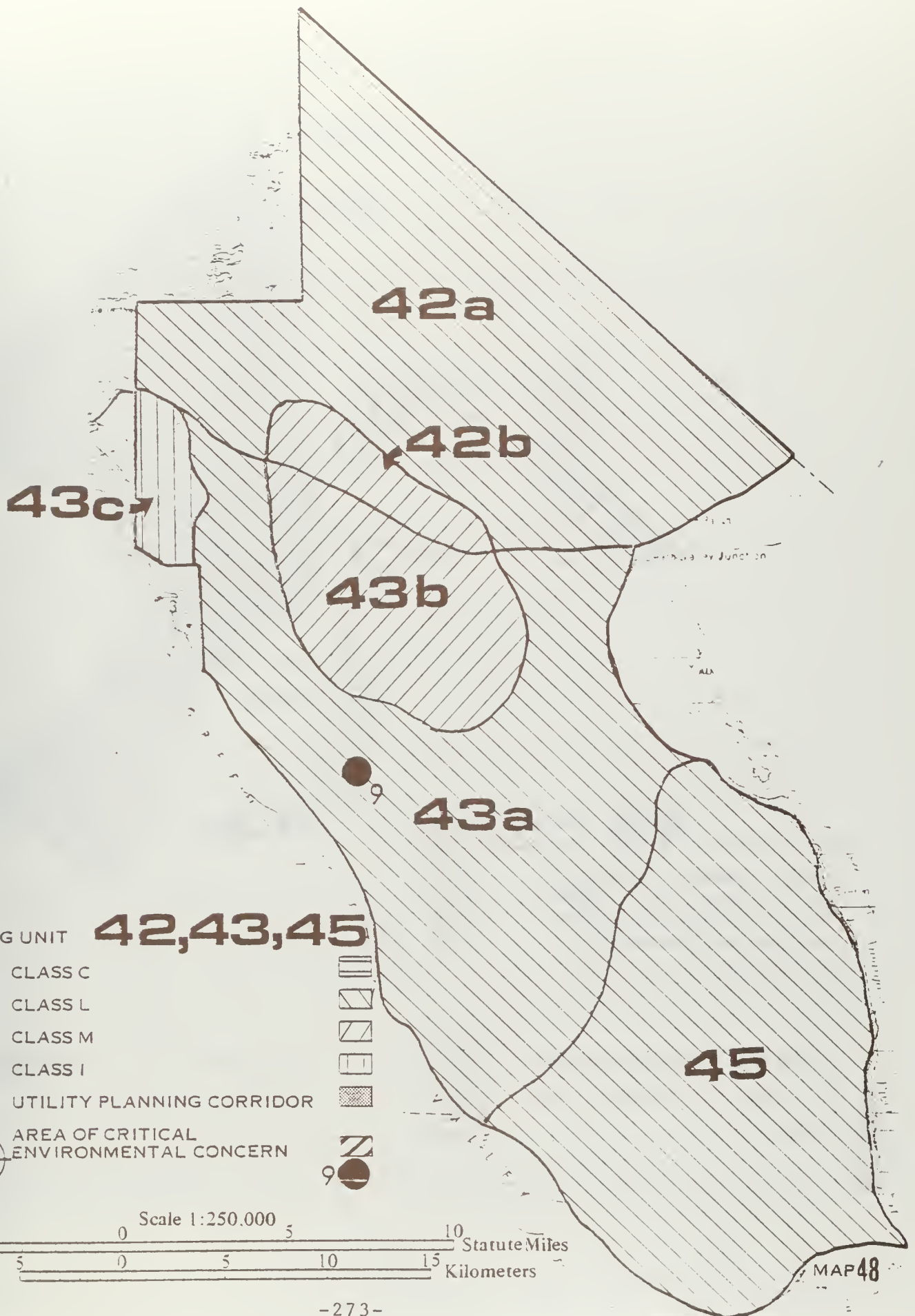
B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Only an extension of an area of very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance is present in this planning area and it includes mostly lithic sites associated with lithic material eroding out of the pediments. The berm of the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad crosses this planning area.
2. Native American. There are old village sites of the Shoshone in this region. Collection continues in this area by some members of the Panamint Shoshone and Chemehuevi.
3. Wildlife. The desert bighorn sheep is proposed as a BLM sensitive species. The only other important species found in the planning unit is the prairie falcon.
4. Vegetation. There are no special vegetation values.
5. Wilderness. A portion of Wilderness Study Area (WSA) #147, the Greenwater Range, lies within the Planning Unit. It is ranked 26 of 137 WSAs.
6. Grazing. None.
7. Wild Horses and Burros. The Chicago Valley Herd Management Area has a low priority. The range condition is fair.
8. Recreation. Excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities exist along

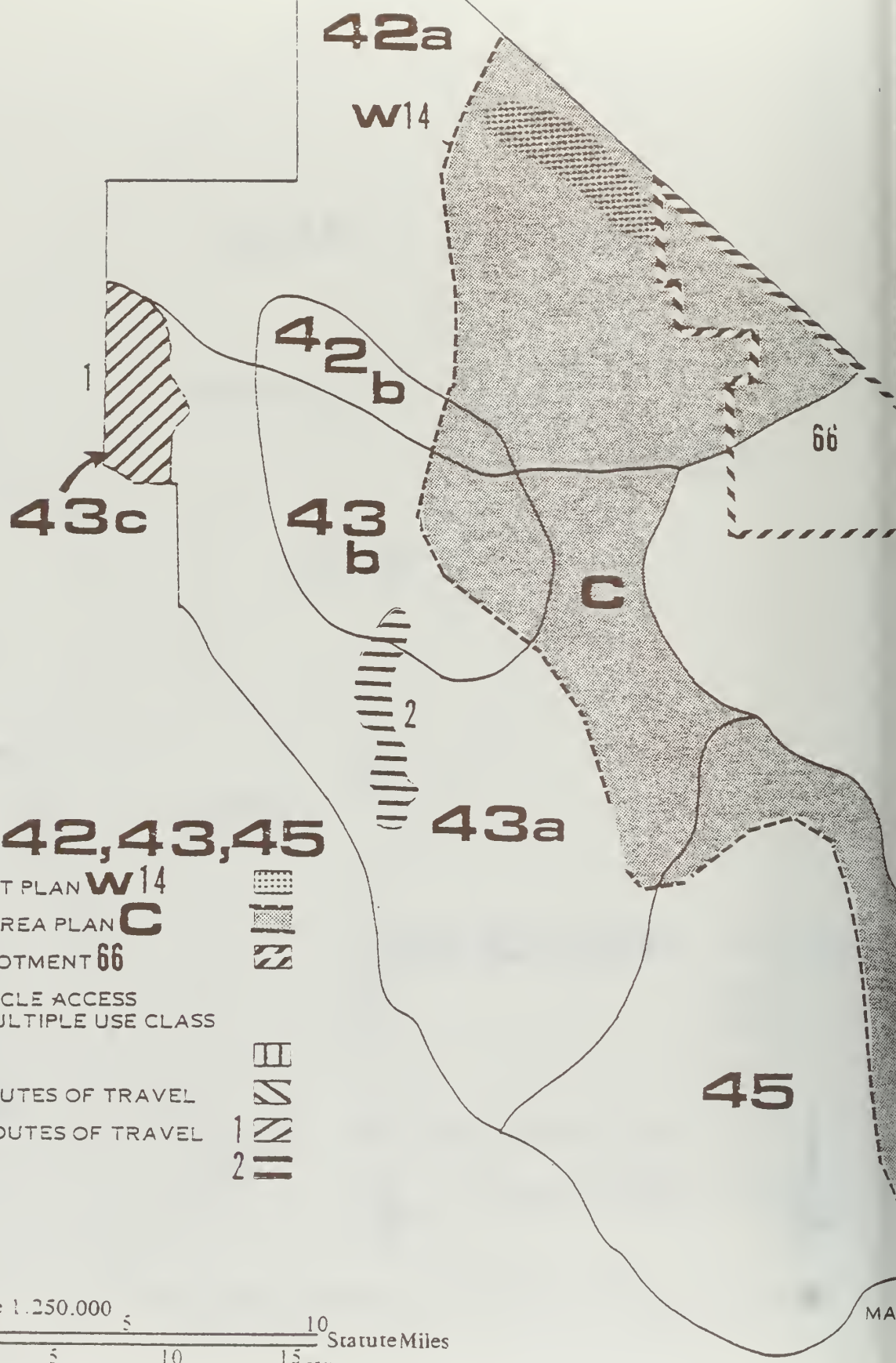
the east edge of the Greenwater Valley. About 20 miles of State Highways 122 and 178 are eligible for designation as a State Scenic Route.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. This area has good potential for future discoveries of metallic minerals although there are no reports of such mineralization to date. Sand and gravel have been removed from a site near Evelyn.









PLANNING UNIT **42,43,45**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **w14**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **C**

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **66**

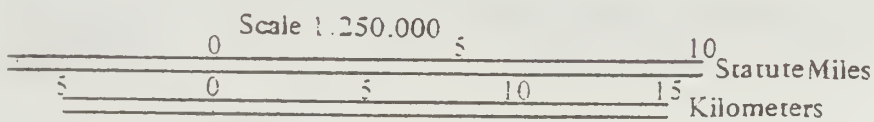
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



PLANNING UNIT #44.

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class C to protect wilderness qualities, wildlife, vegetation, highly sensitive soils, cultural resources and Native American values. (44a, Map 50).

b) This area south of State Highway 190 is recommended as Class M to provide access for exploration and development of known and potential mineral resources. (44b, Map 50).

c) This section of Planning Unit #44 west of the Amargosa River is recommended as Class L to protect sensitive wildlife species. (44c, Map 50).

d) This small area on the eastern corner of Planning Unit #44 is recommended as Class L to protect cultural resources while providing access for mineral exploration and wild horse and burro management. (44d, Map 50).

e) This area is recommended as Class M due to existing and potential mining activities. (44e, Map 50).

f) This area is recommended as Class L to protect natural and cultural resources while providing access for mineral exploration. (44f, Map 50).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife. No Habitat Management Plans will be prepared for this area.

4. Grazing Allotments. A portion of the Death Valley Junction allotment and part of the Pahrump Valley Allotment lie in Planning Unit #44. The former has 1370 AUMs and the latter has 357 AUMs. The Death Valley Junction proposed allotment has a medium priority AMP. The Pahrump Valley allotment has a low priority AMP. (66, 20, Map 53).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Part of the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area (HMA) extends into Planning Unit No. 44. The HMA population will remain at 28 wild horses and 28 burros. The management of this HMA is discussed in the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The HMAP will be written cooperatively with the BLM Las Vegas District.

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the Multiple Use guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. One area of identified high cultural resource sensitivity/significance is found in this planning unit. There is a moderate to high site diversity here. The sites are clustered along the margin of the

playa and at the mountain-valley interface.

2. Native American. This area includes territory used by the Panamint-Shoshone, Southern Ute, River Chemehuevi, and Mohave for seasonal collection. There are several permanent village sites in this region, as well as a portion of a Southern Ute Trail.

3. Wildlife. The Nevada speckled dace is BLM listed as sensitive. Other important species in the Planning Unit are the golden eagle, the prairie falcon, and pallid bat.

4. Vegetation. Planning Unit #44 contains two sensitive plant species.

5. Wilderness. Wilderness Study Area #145, Resting Spring Range, is ranked 28 out of 137.

6. Grazing. The Death Valley Junction Allotment range condition is good. The Pahrump Valley allotment range condition is fair.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. The Chicago Valley Herd Management Area range condition is fair.

8. Recreation. There are excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities in the Eagle Mountains, and Resting Springs Range. 30% of the Planning Unit was rated "excellent" for scenic quality. About 30 miles of State Highway 122 is eligible for designation as a State Scenic Route.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. This Planning Unit contains the Gerstley borate deposit. This active mine, together with the mines in Death Valley and Boron, comprise the major production of borates in the non-communist world.

Currently sand and gravel are being mined and a zeolite deposit is being developed. There are occurrences of copper, lead and gold, and a former lead-silver-zinc-gold producer ore is found in the Planning Unit.

#### PLANNING UNIT #48

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

##### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class C to protect high-rated wilderness characteristics, scenic quality, Native American values, and wildlife, vegetative, and cultural resources. (48a, Map 50).

b) This area is recommended Class L to protect wildlife and cultural resources while allowing vehicle access for mineral exploration and grazing management. (48b, Map 50).

c) This area is recommended as Class L to protect sensitive and significant species located in the Amargosa River riparian area and Native American and cultural resource values, while providing for burro management and mineral exploration and development. (48c, Map 50).



d) This area is recommended as Class M to provide access for burro management and mineral exploration and development while mitigating potential damage to desert resources. (48d, Map 50).

e) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for exploration and development of a potentially mineralized area while providing for protection of significant wildlife species. (48e, Map 50).

f) This area is recommended as Class L because of cultural and wildlife resources, while providing access for mineral exploration. (44f, Map 50).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #48 contains a portion of ACEC #13, Amargosa River and Grimshaw Lake. The management objective will be to protect wildlife habitat, vegetation, sensitive soils, and outstanding scenic quality. See Appendix IV. (13, Map 50).

3. Wildlife. A wildlife Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Shoshone Cave Whip scorpion habitat is designed to protect and/or enhance the habitat of a unique whip-scorpion which is proposed for the BLM sensitive list. Completion of the plan will be within 2 years.

4. Grazing Allotments. Horsethief Springs Allotment. This allotment will remain its ephemeral/perennial designation with no change in the authorized use level of 2424 Animal Unit Months. Season of use is all year-long. A medium priority Allotment Management Plan will be developed with bighorn sheep requirements taken into consideration. (45, Map 51).

Tecopa Allotment. This proposed allotment was eliminated because of overriding cultural and wildlife concerns.

Pahrump Valley Allotment. This will change from a perennial to an ephemeral/perennial designation, and the level of authorized use is reduced from 471 to 353 Animal Unit Months. Season of use is spring and summer. The Allotment Management Plan is low priority. (20, Map 51).

Pahrump Extension. This proposed extension to the Pahrump Valley Allotment has been subject to boundary changes because of overriding wildlife concerns. It will also have an ephemeral/perennial designation, and will be included in the Pahrump Valley Allotment Management Plan. (80, Map 51).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Part of the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area (HMA) extends into Planning Unit #43. The HMA population will remain at 28 wild horses and 28 burros. The management of this HMA is discussed in the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The HMAP is low priority and will be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1983. The HMAP will be prepared cooperatively with the Las Vegas District. (c, Map 51).

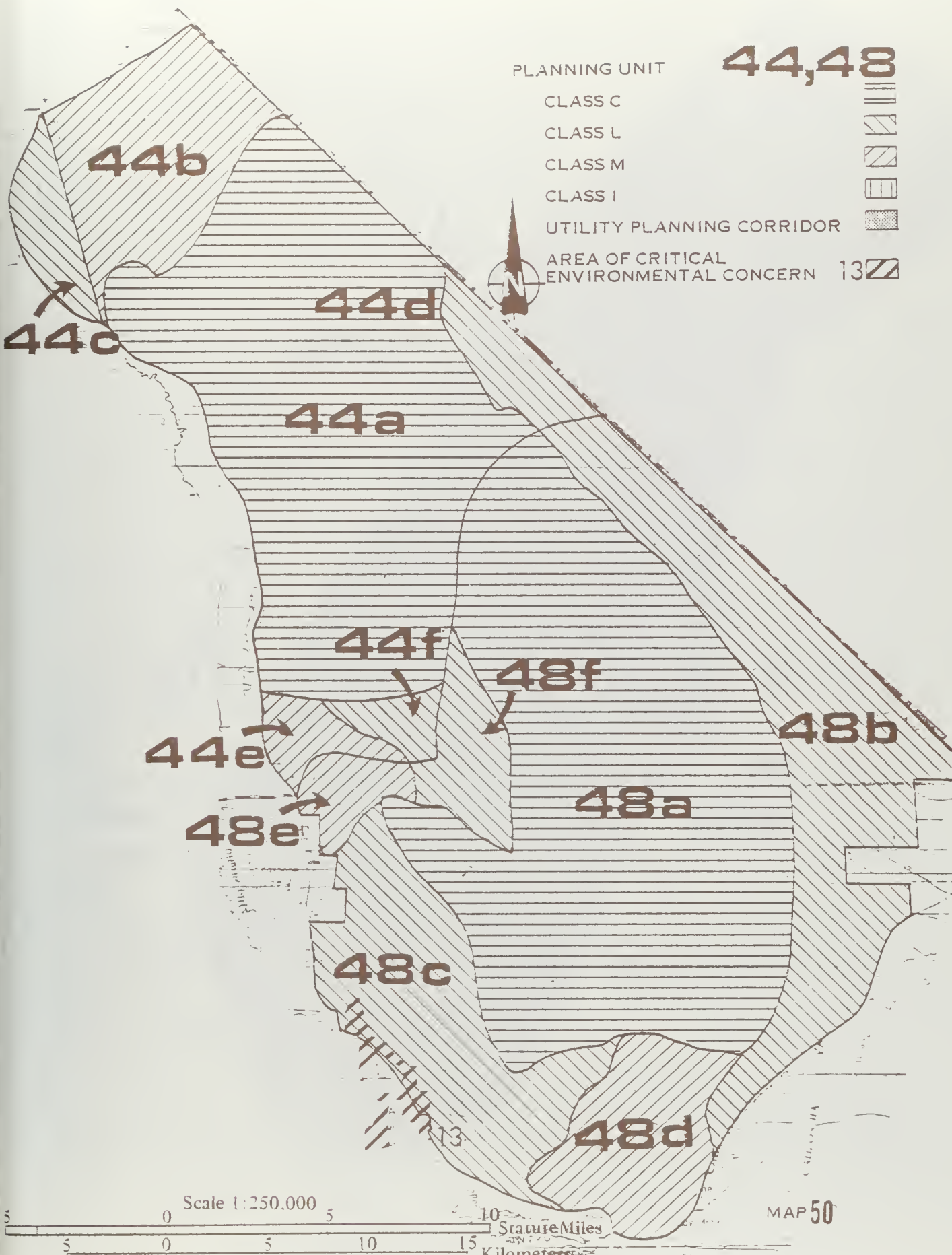
6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class Guidelines.



## B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. A sizeable area of known high and very high prehistoric cultural resource sensitivity/significance occurs within this planning unit. The whole range of site types from simple to complex occur, with a high percentage in the latter class. Some of the sites are associated with presumed lacustrine adaptation.
2. Native American. A portion of the planning unit includes areas traditionally used by the Panamint Shoshone, River Chemehuevi and Mohave. Permanent village sites are also located within this region.
3. Wildlife. The only state "endangered" Amargosa Vole is found in the Planning Unit. BLM "sensitive" species include the Nevada speckled dace, Amargosa river pupfish, desert tortoise, and desert bighorn sheep. Other important species are the golden eagle and prairie falcon. The Grimshaw Lake marshes, and the Chicago and California Valley mesquite thickets are important to wildlife.
4. Vegetation. The planning unit contains one species of special concern.
5. Wilderness. The planning unit contains two Wilderness Study Areas. WSA #150, the Nopah Range, is ranked 17 out of 137. WSA #150A, South Nopah Range, is ranked 128 out of 137.
6. Grazing. The Horsethief Springs Allotment range condition is fair. The Pahrump Valley Allotment range condition is fair.
7. Wild Horses and Burros. The Chicago Valley Herd Management Area range condition in concentration areas is fair. There are 28 wild horses, and 28 feral burros present.
8. Recreation. There are excellent opportunities for hiking and backpacking in the Nopah Range. 40% of the Planning Unit was rated "excellent" for scenic quality.
9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. The Tecopa (or Shoshone) Mining District in the southern Nopah Range has produced gold, silver, lead, copper, zinc and talc from 11 mines. Another former metals producer is located at the north end of the range. Zeolite, bentonite and perlite also occur in this planning area. There is potential for future discoveries of all of these commodities as well as uranium. Geothermal resources are currently being utilized in the Tecopa area. Sand and gravel are being extracted from two or three sites within the planning unit. Approximately 156 unpatented claims and 2 patented claims are recorded with the BLM.



PLANNING UNIT

44,48

CLASS C

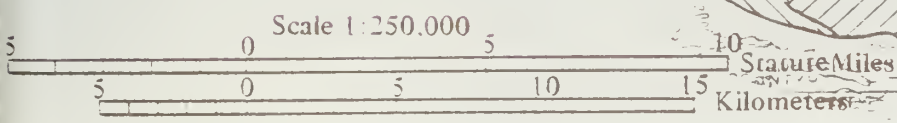
CLASS L

CLASS M

CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



MAP 50



PLANNING UNIT **44,48**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **w15**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **C**

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **66 80 20 45**

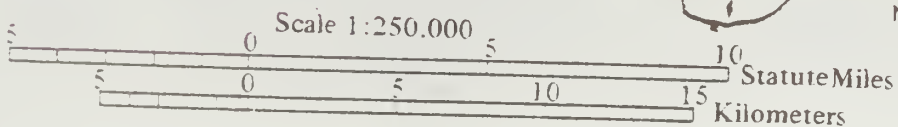
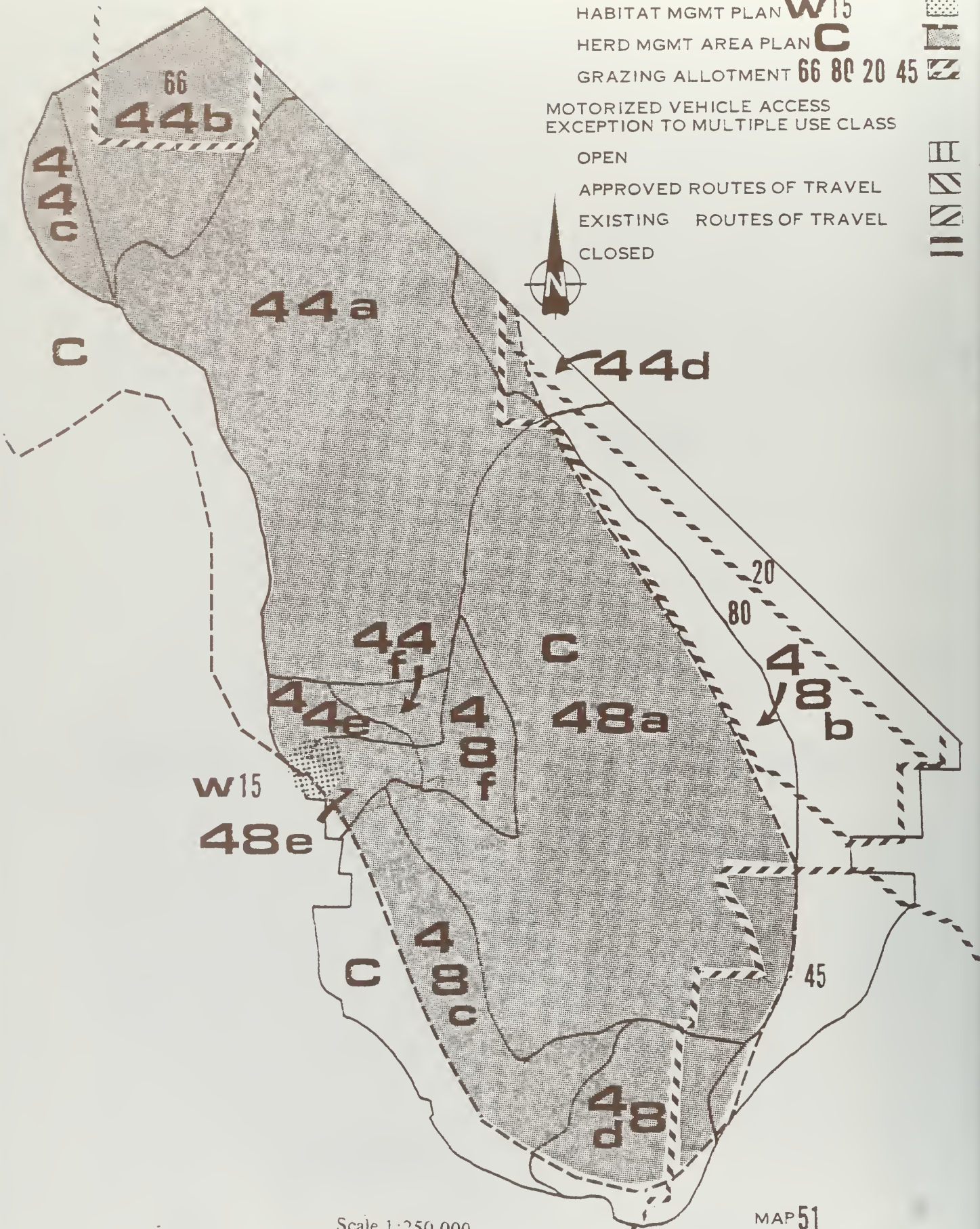
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



MAP **51**

PLANNING UNIT #46

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class C to protect wilderness characteristics, high scenic quality, wildlife, cultural resources, and Native American values. (46a, Map 52)

b) This area is recommended as Class L to protect natural and cultural resources while providing access for mineral exploration and development. (46b, Map 52)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. There are no special wildlife management plans.

4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Area Plans are proposed.

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the Multiple-Use Class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Only a few scattered areas of known high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are present in this planning unit. They incorporate both known historic resource areas and predicted prehistoric resource areas near the permanent water sources.

2. Native American. This region contains areas sacred to the Panamint-Shoshone. In addition, berry picking continues in this region by some Panamint-Shoshone and Southern Utes.

3. Wildlife. One BLM proposed sensitive species, the desert bighorn sheep, is present.

4. Vegetation. One sensitive plant species occurs in this planning unit.

5. Wilderness. A portion of Wilderness Study Area #148, Greenwater Valley, lies in the planning unit. It is ranked 13 out of the 137 WSAs.

6. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

7. Grazing. None.

8. Recreation. Excellent hiking/backpacking opportunities exist throughout Black Mountains and West Greenwater Valley. The entire planning area is rated as excellent scenic quality. Also, ten miles of State Route 178 have been



found eligible as a State Scenic Route.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Barite occurs on the west side of the Greenwater Valley and a small amount of copper was produced there early in this century. There is potential for borates in the valley, and more metallic mineralization may be found at depth in the mountains surrounding it.

#### PLANNING UNIT #47

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

###### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class M to provide vehicle access for mineral exploration and development, while mitigating damage to wildlife, scenic quality, and other desert resources caused by permitted uses. (47a, Map 52)

b) This area is recommended as Class I due to existing and potential mining activities. (47b, Map 52)

c) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for mineral exploration and development while mitigating damage to desert resources by permitted uses. (47c, Map 52)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. No Habitat Management Plans are proposed.

4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. There are no Herd Management Area Plans.

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. One exception to the Multiple-Use Class guidelines for motorized vehicle access occurs at area 47b. Although this area is recommended for Class I because of mining activities, it will be managed to provide access on existing routes of travel. (1, Map 53)

##### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. A few areas of known high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance which incorporate both prehistoric and historic resources are scattered throughout this planning unit. The prehistoric resources include a wide diversity of site types including a relatively high percentage of complex sites such as rock shelters or villages. Historic remains include the "Amargosa Mystery Rings" which are interpreted as borax testing areas.

2. Native American. A portion of the planning unit includes areas traditionally employed by the Panamint-Shoshone, River Chemehuevi, Southern Ute, Southern Chemehuevi, and Mojave. Permanent village sites are also located within this region.

3. Wildlife. One BLM listed sensitive species, the desert bighorn sheep, is present. The only other important species is the prairie falcon.
4. Vegetation. No special vegetation values were identified.
5. Wilderness. Three Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) lie within this planning unit. The first, WSA #149, Ibex Hills, is ranked 73 of 137 WSAs. The second, WSA #149A, Ibex Springs, is ranked 79 of 137 WSAs. Finally, WSA #220, South Saddle Peak Mountains, is ranked 110 of the 137 WSAs.
6. Grazing. None.
7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.
8. Recreation. Excellent hiking opportunities exist south of Ibex Peak and in the foothills above McLaine Park. Approximately 50 percent of the planning unit is rated as excellent scenic quality. Ten miles of State Route 178 have been found eligible as a State Scenic Route. Major activities include sightseeing and vehicle play with dune buggies, motorcycles, and four-wheel drives, and camping.
9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Talc and bentonite are currently being extracted from this planning unit. Six other talc deposits in the Ibex and Saddleback Hills have produced and or have reserves. Gold, silver, lead, copper, and zinc have been produced from seven mines. There is potential for future discoveries and development of these commodities. There are also occurrences of perlite, zeolites, and sand and gravel, all with potential for development.



46b

PLANNING UNIT

46,47

CLASS C



CLASS L



CLASS M



CLASS I



UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR



AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



46a

47a

47b

47c

MAP 52

Scale 1:250,000

Statute Miles

Kilometers



PLANNING UNIT **46,47**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



**46<sub>b</sub>**

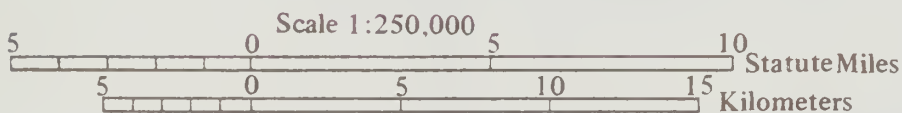
**46a**

**47a**

**1**

**47b**

**47<sub>c</sub>**



## PLANNING UNIT #49

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect sensitive and significant species, a large number of which are located in the Amargosa River - Grimshaw Lake area. This riparian habitat will be protected by an ACEC. Other important resources in this portion of Planning Unit #2 are its primitive characteristics, sensitive soils, scenic quality, and vegetative resources, which include two rare and threatened plant species and unique plant assemblages. Class L designation will also provide access for mineral exploration and development, recreation, and grazing management (49a, Map 54).

b) This area is recommended as Class C (wilderness) because of its outstanding wilderness qualities and for protection of sensitive wildlife and cultural resources (49c, 49d, Map 54).

c) and d) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for continuation of historic mining activities (49c, 49d, Map 54).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #49 contains a portion of ACEC #13, Amargosa River/Grimshaw Lake. The management objective is to protect wildlife habitat, vegetation, and outstanding scenic quality. See Appendix IV (13, Map 54).

3. Wildlife Management. Planning Unit 49 contains one Habitat Management Plan at Kingston Mountains. Its objective is to ensure protection of the wildlife habitat and its occupants, especially the white fir association, Kingston Mountain chipmunk, and desert bighorn sheep. The plan will be completed within five years. Long-term management will require changes in livestock grazing practices and protection of water sources (14, Map 55).

4. Grazing Allotments. This planning unit contains two allotments. The Horsethief Springs Allotment will maintain an ephemeral/perennial designation with no change in the authorized use level of 2,424 Animal Unit Months, with an all-year season. With an all-year season. A medium priority Allotment Management Plan will be developed with bighorn sheep needs taken into consideration. Refer to Appendix XIII for additional information (45, Map 55).

The Valley Wells Allotment will maintain an ephemeral/perennial designation with a slight reduction in the authorized use level from 4,848 to 4,640 Animal Unit Months, with an all-year long season. The medium priority Allotment Management Plan will consider the requirements of bighorn sheep (51, Map 55).

The proposed Tecopa Allotment was eliminated because of over-riding cultural, and wildlife resource values.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Areas are proposed.

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. One large area of known very high and a few small areas of high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are present in this planning unit, incorporating both prehistoric and historic resources. Some of the sites cluster along the Amargosa River in one part of the planning unit, while in other portions they are clustered near springs, near agave areas, and in the higher elevations where pinyon occurs. A high diversity of site types is present.

2. Native American. No.

3. Wildlife. There are two state or federally listed species in Planning Unit #49: The Amargosa Vole, and the California Yellow-billed Cuckoo. BLM sensitive species found in the Planning Unit are the Nevada Speckled Dace, Amargosa River Pupfish, "Least" Bell's Vireo, and the desert bighorn sheep. Other important species include the golden eagle, summer tanager, vermilion flycatcher, Kingston Mountain chipmunk, black-headed snake, prairie falcon, yellow warbler, Townsend's big-eared bat, big brown bat, and mule deer. The Grimshaw Lake marshes and the Amargosa River riparian habitat are particularly important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation. There are six sensitive plant species present. Several unusual plant assemblages are also present: the riparian areas along the Amargosa River near Tecopa, a riparian area near Horsethief Springs, the Kingston Mountains Giant Nolina, and a white fir forest.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #49 contains a portion of Wilderness Study Area #222, Kingston Range. It is ranked 6th out of 137.

6. Grazing. The Horsethief Springs Allotment range condition is fair.

The Valley Wells Allotment range condition is fair. Proposed allotment Tecopa was eliminated for other resource values, but grazing potential exists in this area.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. Excellent hiking and birdwatching opportunities exist along the Amargosa River, and excellent backpacking opportunities can be found in the Kingston Mountains. The Sperry Hills contain excellent opportunities for rock and mineral collecting. The Planning Unit has two highly-rated interpretive and educational areas, the Amargosa River, and the Kingston Mountains. Current activities include education and research, nature study, rockhounding, hiking, vehicle free play, and touring.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. There are 11 talc deposits in this planning unit. One is in production now and several others have produced talc in the past. Gypsum has been produced in the Sperry Hills and silver-lead ores have been mined in the western Alexander Hills. Copper and iron mineralization,

zeolites, bentonite, borates, and nitrates also have been found here. Exploration for metallic minerals, zeolites, bentonite, borates, and uranium can be expected in the future. Approximately 178 unpatented claims were reported by BLM as of December 1979. There are about 93 patented claims.

#### PLANNING UNIT #50

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

###### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class M to ensure access for mineral exploration and development and for grazing management. Desert resources will be protected by mitigation of permitted uses. An ACEC will protect wildlife habitat in the Kingston Mountain area (50a, Map 54).

b) This area is recommended as Class L to protect natural and cultural resources while providing access for grazing management and mineral exploration and development (50b, Map 55).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #50 contains ACEC #14, Kingston Range. The management objective of the ACEC is to protect wildlife habitat. See Appendix IV (14, Map 54).

3. Wildlife Management. The objective of the Habitat Management Plan (HMP) for the Kingston Mountains is to ensure protection of wildlife habitat. Especially important to the management plan are the white fir association, Kingston Mountain chipmunk, and desert bighorn sheep. Completion of the HMP is to be within 5 years. The long-term management will require changes in the livestock grazing practices and the protection of water sources (14, Map 55).

4. Grazing Allotments. The planning unit contains the Horsethief Springs Allotment. The allotment remains an ephemeral/perennial allotment with no change in the authorized use of 2,424 Animal Use Months, with a year-long season of use. A medium priority Allotment Management Plan will take into consideration the needs of the bighorn sheep. Refer to Part 4 of the Livestock Grazing Appendix (45, Map 55).

5. Wilderness and Burros. No Herd Management Area Plan will be prepared.

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exemptions to the Multiple Use Class Guidelines.

##### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. An extension of an area which is recognized for its high cultural resource sensitivity/significance occurs within the planning unit. The majority of the cultural resources in Planning Unit #50 are prehistoric. These resources are clustered around the permanent water sources, near agave and pinyon areas. A wide diversity of site types can be expected to occur in this area.



2. Native American. None were identified.

3. Wildlife. There are no federally- or state-listed species within the planning unit. The desert tortoise and the desert bighorn sheep are the only two BLM sensitive species. Other important species present include the golden eagle, the Kingston Mountain chipmunk, the black headed snake, and the mule deer. The representative habitat of the planning unit is mesquite thicket; other habitats of the unit include white fir forest as well as pinyon juniper woodlands.

4. Vegetation. The giant Nolina unique plant assemblage is found in this planning unit.

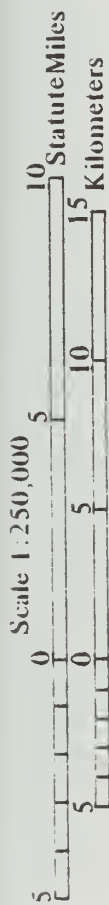
5. Wilderness. None.

6. Grazing. The Horsethief Springs Allotment Range is in fair condition.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. None identified.

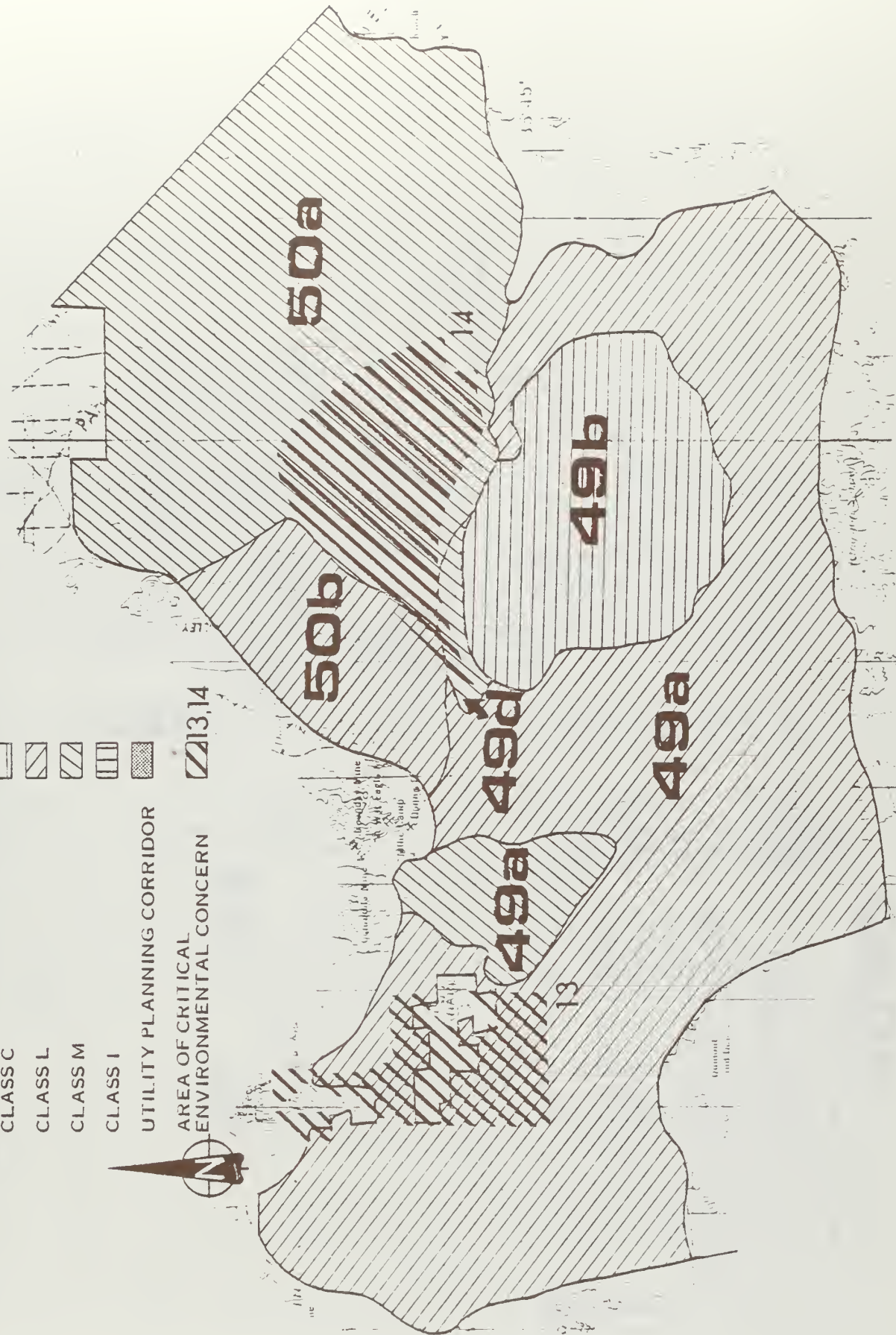
9. Geology-Energy-Mineral. Talc and iron have recently been produced from the northern Kingston Range. There are also three talc deposits, and several silver-lead-copper-zinc gold deposits in this area, some of which are former producers. Quartzite in the north and east parts of the Range and marine sediments at the north end of California Valley are potential sources of silica and dolomite, respectively. The California and Pahrump Valleys have been classified prospectively valuable for oil, gas, and sodium by the U.S. Geological Survey. There are approximately 50 unpatented mining claims reported by BLM.



# 49,50

## PLANNING UNIT

- CLASS C
- CLASS L
- CLASS M
- CLASS I
- UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR
- AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



MAP 54

# 49,50

PLANNING UNIT

HABITAT MGMT PLAN 14

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT 45,51

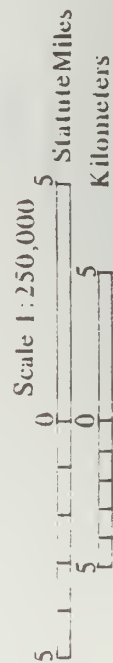
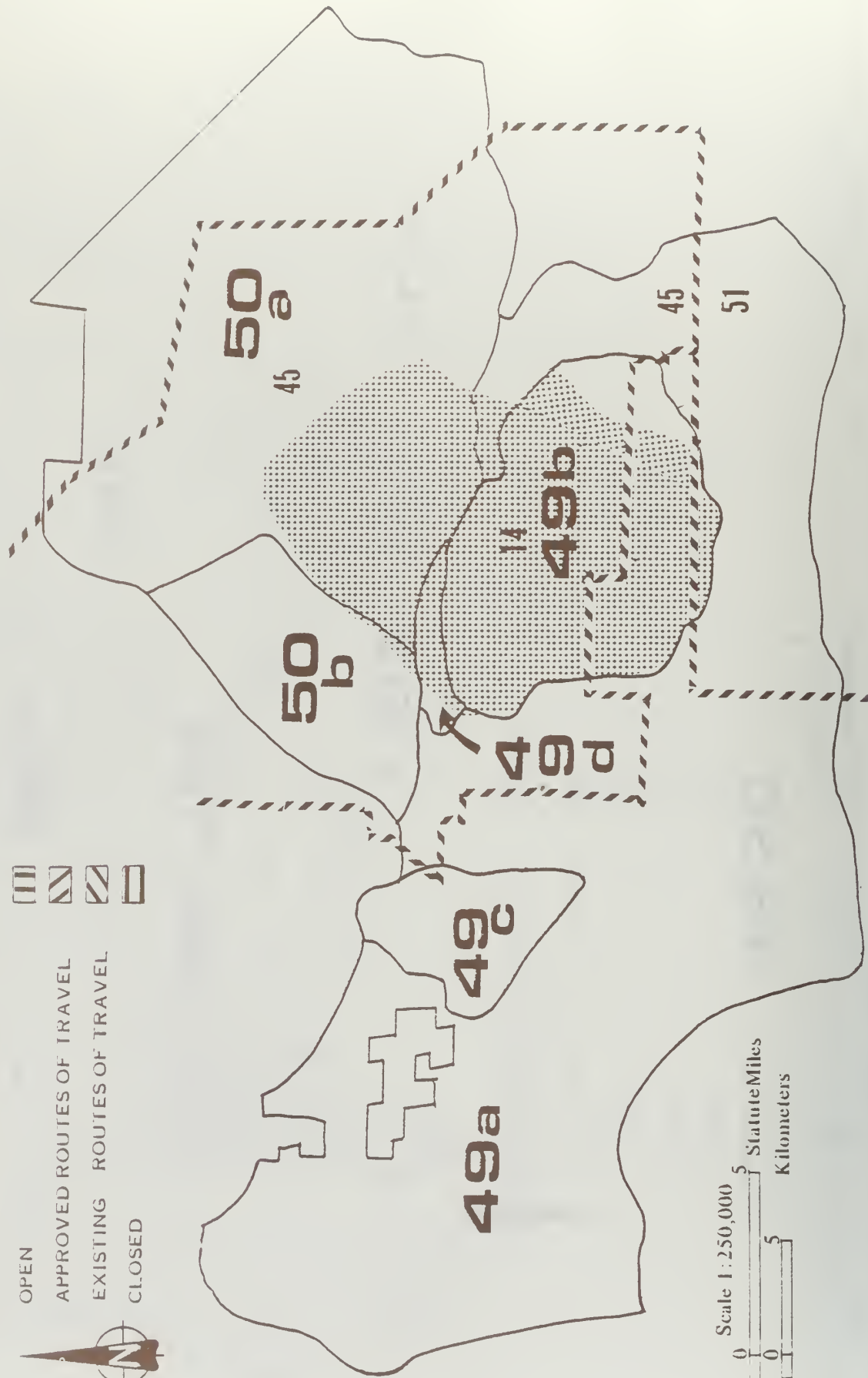
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



MAP 55



PLANNING UNIT #51

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, vegetation, soils, cultural resources and Native American values while providing vehicle access for mineral, geothermal, oil and gas exploration and development, and grazing and burro management (51a, Map 56).

b) This area is recommended as Class M to accomodate mineral exploration and development. The mitigation measures used in this area will protect the desert resources, particularly Native American resources, from the impacts associated with permitted uses (51b, Map 56).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #51 contains ACEC #15, Mesquite Lake. The objective of this ACEC is to protect prehistoric values. See Appendix IV (15, Map 56)

3. Wildlife. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Shadow Valley. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values within Shadow Valley, especially desert tortoise populations. Completion of the plan will be within 7 years. Long-term management will require removal of burros and changes in livestock grazing practices (W25, Map 57).

4. Grazing Allotments. Three grazing allotments are within this planning unit, the Horsethief Springs Allotment, Valley Wells Allotment and the Clark Mountain Allotment.

The Horsethief Springs Allotment remains an ephemeral/perennial allotment with no change in the authorized use of 2,424 Animal Use Months (AUMs). The season of use remains yearlong. The medium priority Allotment Management Plan (AMP) will accomodate the needs of bighorn sheep (45, Map 57).

The Valley Wells Allotment remains ephemeral/perennial; however there will be a slight reduction in the authorized AUMs, 4,640 AUMs will be authorized compared with 4,848 AUMs presently authorized. The season of use will remain year round. The medium priority AMP will consider bighorn sheep needs (51, Map 51).

The Clark Mountain Allotment will remain designated ephemeral/perennial. There will be no change in the number of AUMs authorized. The season of use for the authorized 1,872 AUMs will continue to be yearlong. The high priority AMP will consider the needs of the bighorn sheep as well as the desert tortoise (39, Map 57).

For additional information on each of the preceeding allotments please refer to Part 4 of the livestock Grazing Appendix.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. The planning unit contains the Clark Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA). The Clark Mountain HMA will be reduced from 365 to 44 head. The remaining 44 head will be restricted to the west portion of



the HMA; the Clark Mountains will provide habitat for the Bighorn Sheep (F, Map 57).

6. Utility Corridors. Planning Unit #51 is bordered on the south by Utility Corridor D (D, Map 56).

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. The Multiple Use Class Guidelines for the unit are existing routes of travel and approved routes of travel. An exception to the class guidelines is the Mesquite Lake ACEC which will be closed to vehicle access to provide protection of sensitive cultural resource areas (1, Map 57).

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. One known high and one very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance area are located within this polygon. Recorded site types include temporary camps, lithics, rockshelters, and roasting pits. Sites are concentrated around Mesquite Lake, in association with mesquite, also in Stateline Pass and in the northern end of Clark Mountains.

2. Native American. This planning unit includes regions employed contemporarily by Panamint/Shoshone and Chemehuevi groups. Temporary camps and springs have been identified as places of spiritual power.

3. Wildlife. There are no federally- or state-listed species within the planning unit. The desert bighorn sheep is the only BLM sensitive species within the unit. There are no species proposed for sensitive status by the BLM. The representative habitat is pinyon juniper woodland, and the white fir forest represents the only unique habitat found within the planning unit.

4. Vegetation. Two sensitive plant species are present.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #51 contains three Wilderness Study Areas (WSA). WSA #223, North Mesquite Mountains, is ranked #125 out of 137. WSA #225, Mesquite Mountains, is ranked 83 out of 137. WSA #225A, Stateline, is ranked 108 out of 137. Refer to Appendix III for additional information.

6. Grazing. The range condition of the Horsethief Allotment is fair. The range condition of the Clark Mountain Allotment is fair. The range condition of the Valley Wells Allotment is fair.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. The Clark Mountain Herd Management area presently has 365 head of wild horses and burros.

8. Recreation. The planning unit contains outstanding scenic quality, excellent interpretive sites, and floral displays. The area also provides excellent opportunities for hiking, and backpacking, and rock and mineral collection.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral. Production of silver-lead-zinc and copper has taken place in the southeast corner of this unit. This area is currently under claim. Gypsum also is under claim in this area. Limestone/dolomite and gypsum in this region may have commercial value. This area is within the Overthrust Belt. U.S. Geological Survey has classified the area as

prospectively valuable for oil and gas. New or existing oil and gas lease areas are along the eastern and southern boundaries of the planning area. There are a total of 80 unpatented claims which were recorded with the BLM as of December 1979, in this planning unit.

#### PLANNING UNIT #65

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

###### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife and cultural and vegetative resources while providing access for burro management, grazing management and mineral exploration (65a, Map 56).

b) This area is recommended as Class M to provide access for mineral exploration and development, and burro and grazing management. Sensitive desert resources will be protected by mitigation of impacts of permitted uses (51b, Map 56).

c) This area is recommended as Class M because of historical mining activity in the area. Access will be provided for continued mineral exploration and development, recreation, and grazing management (51c, Map 56).

d) This area is recommended as Class I because of existing mining activities (51d, Map 56).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #65 contains two ACECs. ACEC #29, Halloran Wash, has the management objective of protecting prehistoric values (29, Map 56). ACEC #19, Clark Mountain, will be managed to protect prehistoric and historic values, wildlife values, and outstanding scenic quality. See Appendix IV (19, Map 56).

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be proposed for Clark Mountain. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values on Clark Mountain, especially the white fir and pinyon-juniper habitat, and the desert bighorn sheep population. Completion of the plan will be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros, changes in livestock grazing practices, and protection of water sources (19, Map 57).

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Shadow Valley. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values within Shadow Valley, especially desert tortoise populations. Completion of the plan will be within 7 years. Long-term management will require removal of burros and changes in livestock grazing practices (W-25, Map 57).

4. Grazing Allotments. The Valley Wells Allotment will keep its ephemeral/perennial designation with a slight reduction in the authorized use level from 4,848 to 4,640 Animal Unit Months. The season of use is year round. The medium priority Allotment Management Plan will consider bighorn sheep requirements (51, Map 57).

The Clark Mountain Allotment will remain designated ephemeral/perennial. There will be no change in the number of AUMs ephemeral/perennial. There will be no change in the number of AUMs authorized. The season of use for the authorized 1,872 AUMs will continue to be yearlong. The high priority AMP will consider the needs of the bighorn sheep as well as the desert tortoise (39, Map 57).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Clark Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA). The wild burro population will be reduced from 365 to 44 animals. The burros that remain will be concentrated in the west end of the HMA, while the Clark Mountains will be left for bighorn sheep. The management for this HMA will be discussed in the East Mojave Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). This HMAP is medium priority and will be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1982 (F, Map 57).

6. Utility Corridors. Planning Unit #65 is bordered by two utility corridors; "D" on the north, and "BB" on the south and east. Both follow existing corridors, and are a part of a regional system designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption (D, BB, Map 56).

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are two exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines in this planning unit. In ACEC #29, Halloran Wash, although the guidelines call for existing routes of travel, the area encompassed by the ACEC will be closed to vehicle access to prehistoric values (2, Map 57). Sub-planning Unit 51d, which is recommended for Class I because of mining activities, will be managed for access on existing routes of travel (3, Map 57).

## B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. One known high and one very high sensitivity/significance area are located within this planning unit. Numerous sites have been recorded, including rock art, temporary camps, lithics, rockshelters with middens, and many historic sites. Historic remains include the Ivanpah townsite, mills, mines, shafts, etc. This is an extremely sensitive area.

2. Native American. No resources of religious importance, or of secular concern have been identified.

3. Wildlife. The desert bighorn sheep and the desert tortoise are identified as BLM sensitive species. Other important species include the golden eagle, gila monster, gray vireo, prairie falcon, big brown bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, rock squirrel, Panamint chipmunk, and mule deer. In the Clark Mountains, the pinyon-juniper woodland, and the white fir grove are of special importance to wildlife.

4. Vegetation. Planning Unit #65 contains at least three sensitive plant species. There are also three unusual plant assemblages; a white fir forest enclave, a basic rock-dwelling assemblage, and the Valley Wells shadscale scrub assemblage.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #65 contains Wilderness Study Area #227, Clark Mountain. It was ranked #43 out of 137. See Appendix III.

6. Grazing. The Valley Wells Allotment range condition is fair. The Clark Mountain Allotment range condition is fair.

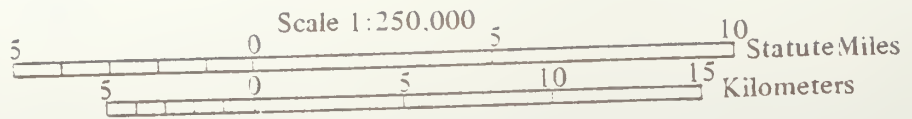
7. Wild Horses and Burros. In the Clark Mountain Herd Management Area, range condition in animal concentration areas is fair. There are about 365 feral burros present.

8. Recreation. There are excellent opportunities for hiking, nature study, and birdwatching in the Clark Mountains. Two sites, the rare earths mining operation at Mountain Pass, and Clark Mountain are rated "excellent" for interpretation and education. Forty miles of Interstate 15 is eligible for designation as a state scenic route. Current activities include nature study, camping, education and research, birdwatching, hiking, rockhounding, hobby prospecting, and hunting.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. There is current production of rare earth elements at Mountain Pass. Exploration and development continues at the Coliseum gold mine. Past production of copper, lead, zinc, gold, silver, and fluorites is known. Northwestern Ivanpah Valley has two active deposits of sand and gravel; northern Shadow Valley (south of Squaw Mt.) has one active talc mine, several past producers of talc and turquoise, and two occurrences of rare earth elements including thorium. The U.S. Geological Survey has classified northwestern Ivanpah Valley prospectively valuable for oil and gas. The area is located within the overthrust belt. New and existing oil and gas areas are along the northern and southern boundaries of the planning unit. There are 28 patented claims and as of December 1979 there were 362 unpatented mining claims recorded with the BLM.







PLANNING UNIT **51,65**

CLASS C

CLASS L

CLASS M

CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

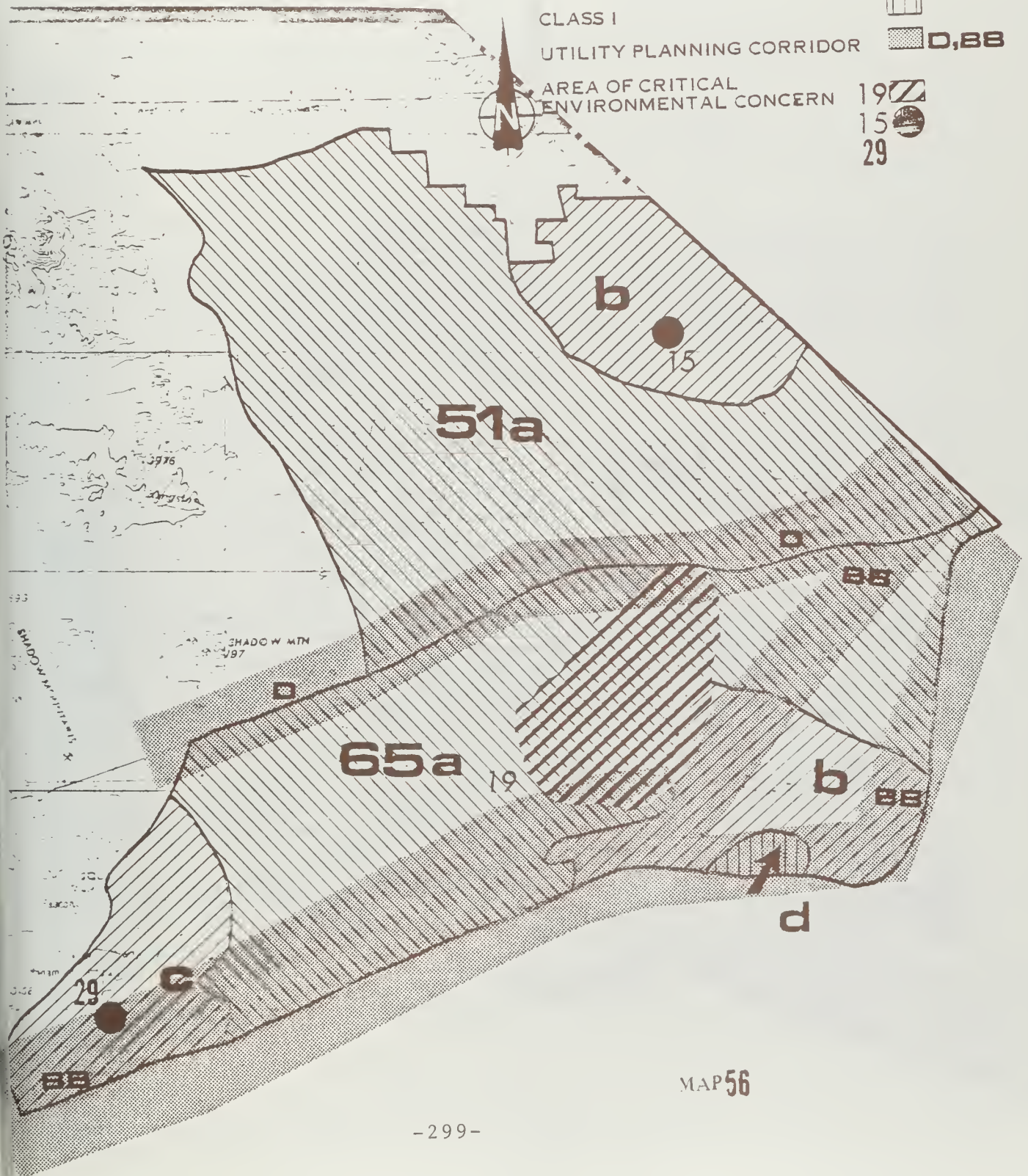


**D,88**

19

15

29



MAP 56

PLANNING UNIT **51, 65**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **19, w-25**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **F**

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **39, 45, 51**

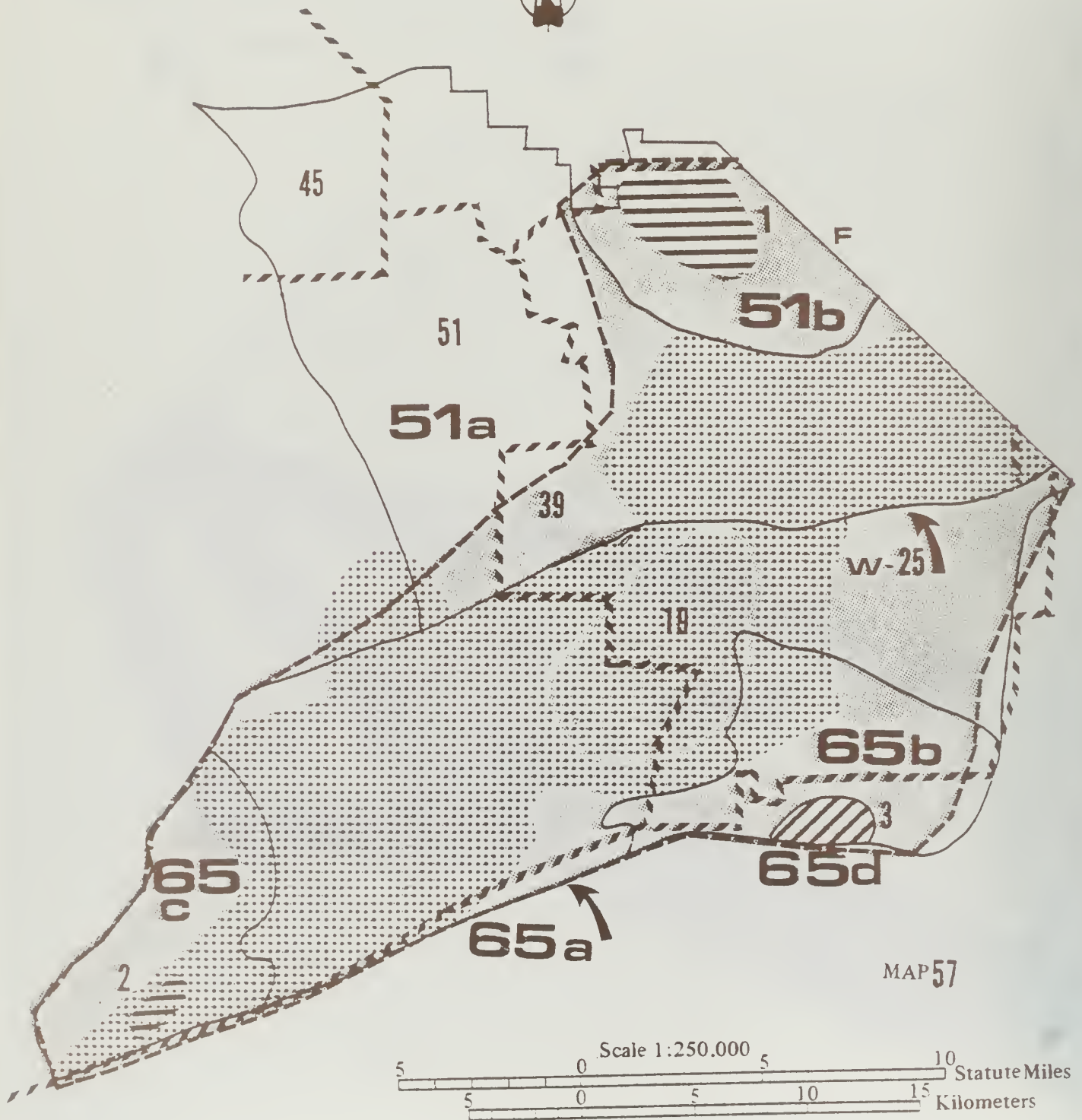
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL **3**

CLOSED





PLANNING UNIT #52

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class.

a) The major part of this area is recommended as Class M to provide access for mineral and energy development, recreation, and grazing management. Desert resources will be protected by mitigation of impacts of permitted uses (52a, Map 58).

b) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife resources (desert tortoise) while providing access for grazing and burro management and mineral exploration (52b, Map 58).

c) The Silurian Dry Lake area is recommended as Class I to provide for motorized vehicle free play.

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. Planning Unit #52 contains a small portion of the Habitat Management Plan for Shadow Valley (Desert Tortoise Habitat). The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values within Shadow Valley, especially desert tortoise populations. Completion of the plan will be within 7 years. Long-term management will require removal of burros and changes in livestock grazing practices (W-25, Map 59).

4. Grazing Allotments. The Valley Wells Allotment is within Planning Unit #52. The allotment remains designated ephemeral/perennial; there will be a slight reduction in the number of authorized AUMs, 4,640 AUMs will be authorized as opposed to the 4,848 AUMs presently authorized. The season of use will be unchanged. The medium priority AMP will consider the needs of bighorn sheep. Please refer to part four of the Grazing Appendix for additional discussion of this allotment (51, Map 59).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. The planning unit contains a small portion of the Clark Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA). The Clark Mountain HMA will be reduced from the current 365 head to 44 head. The remaining head will be restricted to the west portion of the HMA; the Clark Mountains will provide habitat for the Bighorn Sheep. The removal and management of the burros in this HMA will be discussed in the East Mojave Herd Management Plan (F, Map 59).

6. Utility Corridors. The southern boundary of the planning unit is adjacent to Utility Corridor D (D, Map 58).

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. A few small areas of high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are scattered throughout this planning area,



including zones of prehistoric and historic activity. The historic sites are clustered in the vicinity of permanent water sources or near the valuable ore deposits, while the prehistoric values are associated with water and near natural resource areas. In addition the historic Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad crossed this area.

2. Native American. None Identified.

3. Wildlife. There are no federally- or state-listed species within the planning unit. The desert tortoise, a BLM sensitive species; is present within the planning unit. The golden eagle is also found within this unit.

4. Vegetation. This planning unit does not possess any significant plant species.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #52 contains Wilderness Study Area #222, Kingston Mountain; it is ranked 6 out of 137. Wilderness Area #222A, Silurian Valley is also within this planning unit, it is ranked 123 out of 137.

6. Grazing. The range condition of the Valley Wells Allotment is considered fair.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. The Clark Mountain Herd Management Area presently has 365 herd of wild horses and burros.

8. Recreation. The planning unit contains one highly rated interpretive site, the Silurian Hills.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral. The Riggs Mine in the Silurian Hills has produced 200,000 oz. of silver plus unknown quantities of lead, gold, and copper. Two other mines produced silver in the Silurian Hills, and there was also a silver producer in the Shadow Mountains. Silver, lead, and gold have been produced from mines on Shadow Mountain itself. Talc has been mined at three locations in the Silurian Hills and talc resources are still present in this area. Silica (quartzite) and dolomite also occur in these hills, and gypsum is reported to occur in the northern Shadow Mountains. As of December 1979 there were 33 unpatented claims reported by the BLM and 10 patented claims in this area.

#### PLANNING UNIT #55

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

###### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class M to provide access for recreational activities. ACEC #18 will protect wildlife habitat and prehistoric values at Salt Creek (55a, Map 61).

b) The area of Dumont Dunes is recommended as Class I to allow a continuation of traditional ORV free play (55b, Map 61).

###### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Planning Unit #55 contains two sites that are proposed for designation as ACECs. ACEC #13, Armagosa River/Grimshaw Lake, has the objective of protecting wildlife habitat, vegetation, outstanding scenic qualities and riparian areas (13, Map 61). ACEC #18, Salt Creek (Dumont) will be protected to preserve its wildlife habitat and prehistoric values (18, Map 61).

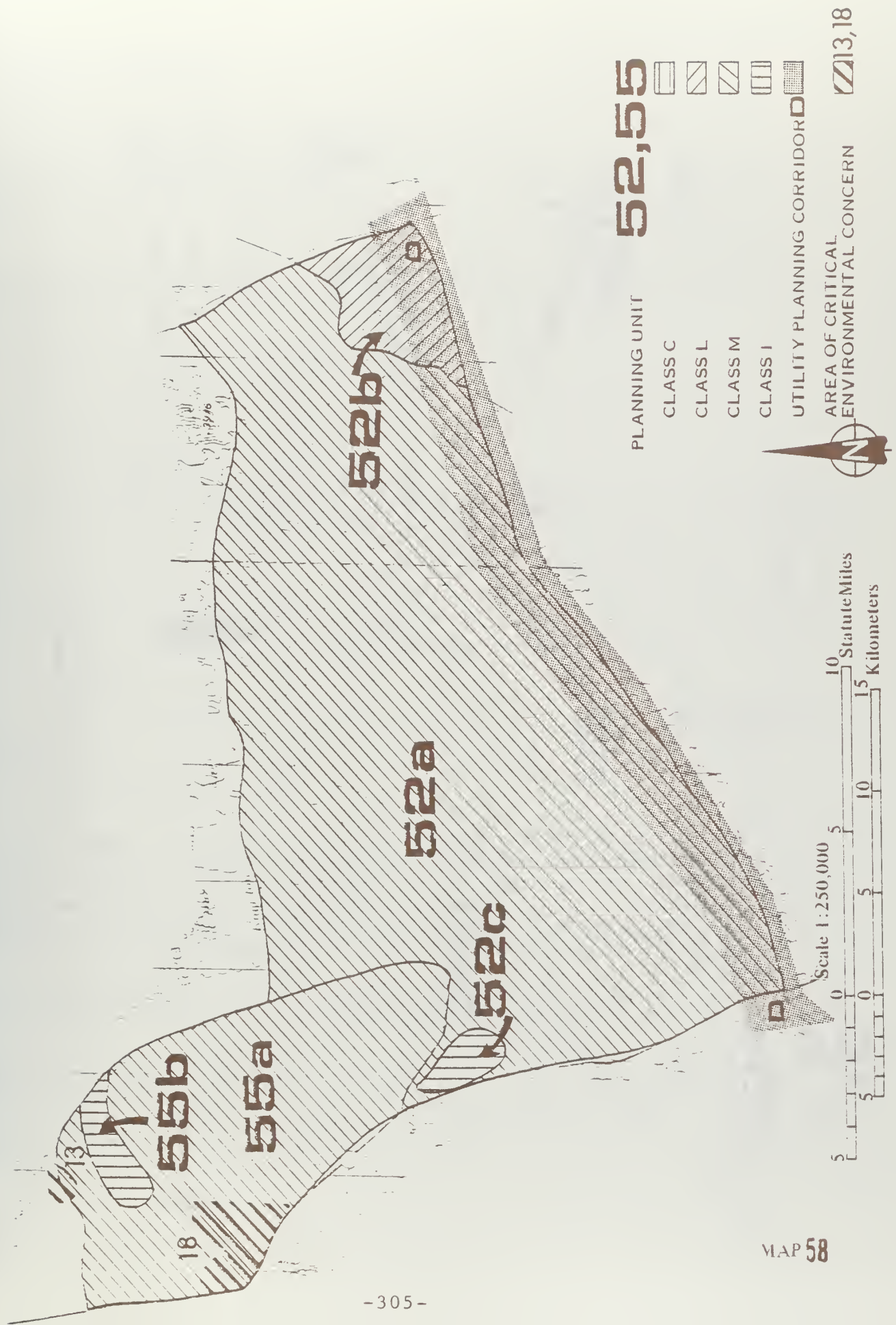
3. Wildlife Management. No special plans are proposed.
4. Grazing Allotments. Tecopa Allotment - this proposed allotment was eliminated because of the overriding cultural and wildlife resource values present.
5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Area Plans are proposed.
6. Utility Corridors. None.
7. Motorized Vehicle Access. A portion of Planning Unit #55 that is designated Class M, existing routes of travel, will have an actual management designation of approved routes of travel. The vehicle access restrictions will protect sensitive wildlife and cultural resource areas in the Salt Creek (Dumont) ACEC while providing for opportunities for natural/cultural recreational activities (1, Map 62).

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Two identified high and one very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance areas are located within this polygon. Sites recorded include rockshelters, temporary camps, lithics, and numerous historic remains. Historic sites vary from early mining remains to the berm of the Tonopah/Tidewater Railroad.
2. Native American. There are no areas of traditional religious concern, or of secular significance identified in this planning unit.
3. Wildlife. No federally or state-listed species are identified within this planning unit, neither are any BLM sensitive species found within the area. The golden eagle is found within the planning unit. The Salt Creek mesquite thicket/riparian habitat is a unique habitat within this planning unit.
4. Vegetation. Part of the Salt Creek riparian area is within this planning unit.
5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #55 contains one Wilderness Study Area. WSA #222, the Kingston Range, is rated 6 out of 137.
6. Grazing. The Tecopa Allotment was eliminated due to the over-riding cultural and wildlife values present within the planning unit.
7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.
8. Recreation. The planning area contains excellent (but limited) hiking opportunities in Salt Hills and hiking opportunities in Dumont Dunes. Dumont

Dunes are highly rated for interpretive uses. Approximately 10 miles of State Route #127 is eligible as a state scenic route. The major activities within the unit include camping, dune buggy play, four wheel play, motorcycle play and sightseeing.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral. The Salt Spring Hills contain gold in lode and placer deposits and there has been production from one mine here. There is potential for metallic minerals in these hills and in the western edge of the Silurian Hills which are included in this planning area. Silurian Valley has been classified prospectively valuable for sodium, oil, and gas by the U.S. Geological Survey. Approximately 50 unpatented claims are recorded with the BLM in this planning area. As of December 1979, there are about 5 patented claims.







PLANNING UNIT  
**52, 55**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



MAP 59

## PLANNING UNIT #53

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) Almost the entire planning unit is recommended as Class C because of its relatively high wilderness values and its proximity to administratively-endorsed wilderness areas in Death Valley National Monument (53a, Map 60).

b) This small area in the southeast corner of the planning unit is recommended as Class L to provide access for continued mineral exploration and development in this historic mining area (53b, Map 60).

#### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

#### 3. Wildlife Management. No special management plans are prepared.

#### 4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. The planning unit contains the Slate Range Herd Management Area. The tentative plans call for a reduction in the number of wild burros from the current 804 head to 408 head. This number is subject to change based upon the high priority Centennial-Slate Range Herd Management Area Plan which is being developed with Naval Weapons Center and the incorporation of their current data and analysis. The HMAP will include the monitoring of burros as well as bighorn sheep. It is scheduled for completion by the end of Fiscal Year 1981 (T. Map 61).

#### 6. Utility Corridors. None.

#### 7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the Multiple Use Guidelines.

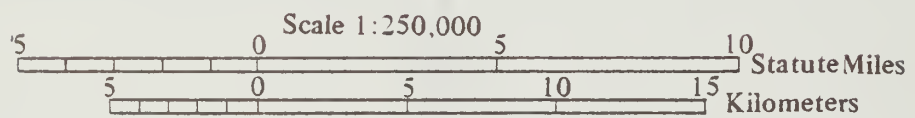
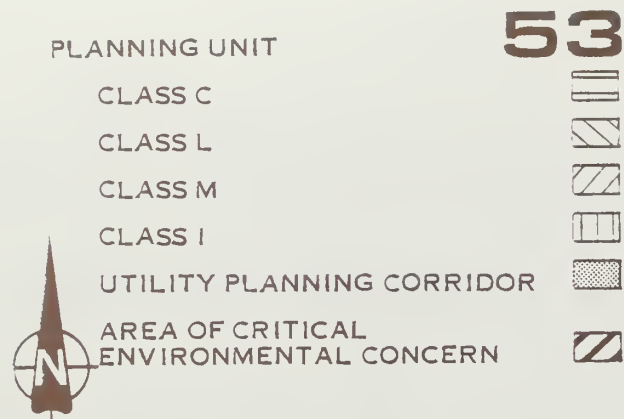
### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. A few areas of identified high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are scattered throughout this planning area. The areas of sensitivity are predicted on the basis of the few dry lakes and permanent water sources located in this remote area. Adjacent areas have complex village sites at springs so it is likely the same will be found here. Some remains of sporadic mining operations are also expected.

2. Native American. This area includes Panamint Shoshone chia collection areas, village sites, and areas occupied during the summer.

3. Wildlife. No Federal or State listed species, nor BLM proposed sensitive species are present within this planning unit. The desert bighorn sheep, a BLM sensitive species, does exist within the planning unit. There were no other important wildlife species within this planning unit. There are no representative or unique habitats in this area.

4. Vegetation. No significant plant species or habitat have been identified within this planning unit.
5. Wilderness. None.
6. Grazing. None.
7. Wild Horse and Burro. The population density of the wild burros and their competition for available habitat with themselves as well as the bighorn sheep population was considered.
8. Recreation. The planning unit contains excellent rock and mineral collecting area in the southeastern portion of the Owlshhead Mountains from the Black Magic Mine to the east portion of the planning unit. Excellent opportunities exist for quail and chuckar hunting in and around Quail Spring. Current activities include sightseeing, rockhounding, camping, hunting, and hobby prospecting.
9. Geology-Energy-Mineral. About 15,300 tons of manganese ore was produced in the southeast part of this planning area prior to 1959. Gold ore is reported near Quail Spring, but data is sparse. Much of the interior is classified prospectively valuable for oil and gas, and sodium and potassium by U.S. Geological Survey. The geology of much of the area is potentially favorable for uranium. The planning area contains 10 unpatented mining claims.



MAP **60**



# PLANNING UNIT 53

HABITAT MGMT PLAN

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **T**

GRAZING ALLOTMENT

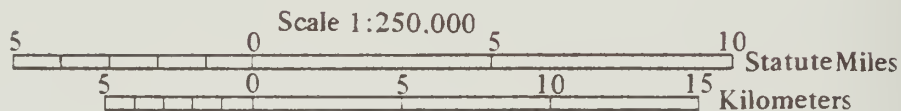
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



MAP 61

## PLANNING UNIT #54

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect natural and cultural resources and provide continuity with management at Death Valley National Monument (54a, Map 65).

b) This area is recommended as Class M to provide motorized vehicle access for recreational activities and mineral exploration and development. ACEC #17 will protect prehistoric and historic values at Denning Springs (54b, Map 65).

c) This area is recommended as Class M to provide vehicle access for recreation and mineral exploration and development. Cultural resources and other desert values will be protected by mitigating the impacts of permitted uses (54c, Map 65).

d) This area is recommended as Class L in recognition of its relatively highly rated wilderness qualities and to protect wildlife and sensitive soils while allowing access for mineral exploration and development (54d, Map 65).

e) This area is recommended as Class L to protect natural and cultural values while providing access for recreation and mineral exploration and development (54e, Map 65).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #54 contains ACEC #17, Denning Spring. The management objective of this ACEC is to protect prehistoric and historic values (17, Map 65).

3. Wildlife Management. No special plans are proposed.

4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Area Plans are proposed.

6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor "D" forms the southern border of the planning unit (D, Map 65).

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the Multiple Use Guidelines.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. At scattered locations throughout this planning area are identified areas of high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance, incorporating significant prehistoric and historic resource values. The historic values include evidence of mining and travel ie. Old Spanish Trail. Many of the prehistoric resources are lithic scatters; some are found on desert pavements and these may extend well back in time.

2. Native American. Gallena grass and tule collection sites used by the

Shoshone are located within this planning unit.

3. Wildlife. No federally- or state-listed species are present within this planning unit. A BLM sensitive species, the desert bighorn sheep and the golden eagle are found within Planning Unit #54.

4. Vegetation. No significant plant species or habitat has been identified within this planning unit.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #54 has two Wilderness Study Areas. WSA #221, Avawatz Mountain is rated 31 out of 137; while South Avawatz Mountains, WSA #221A, is rated 54 out of 137.

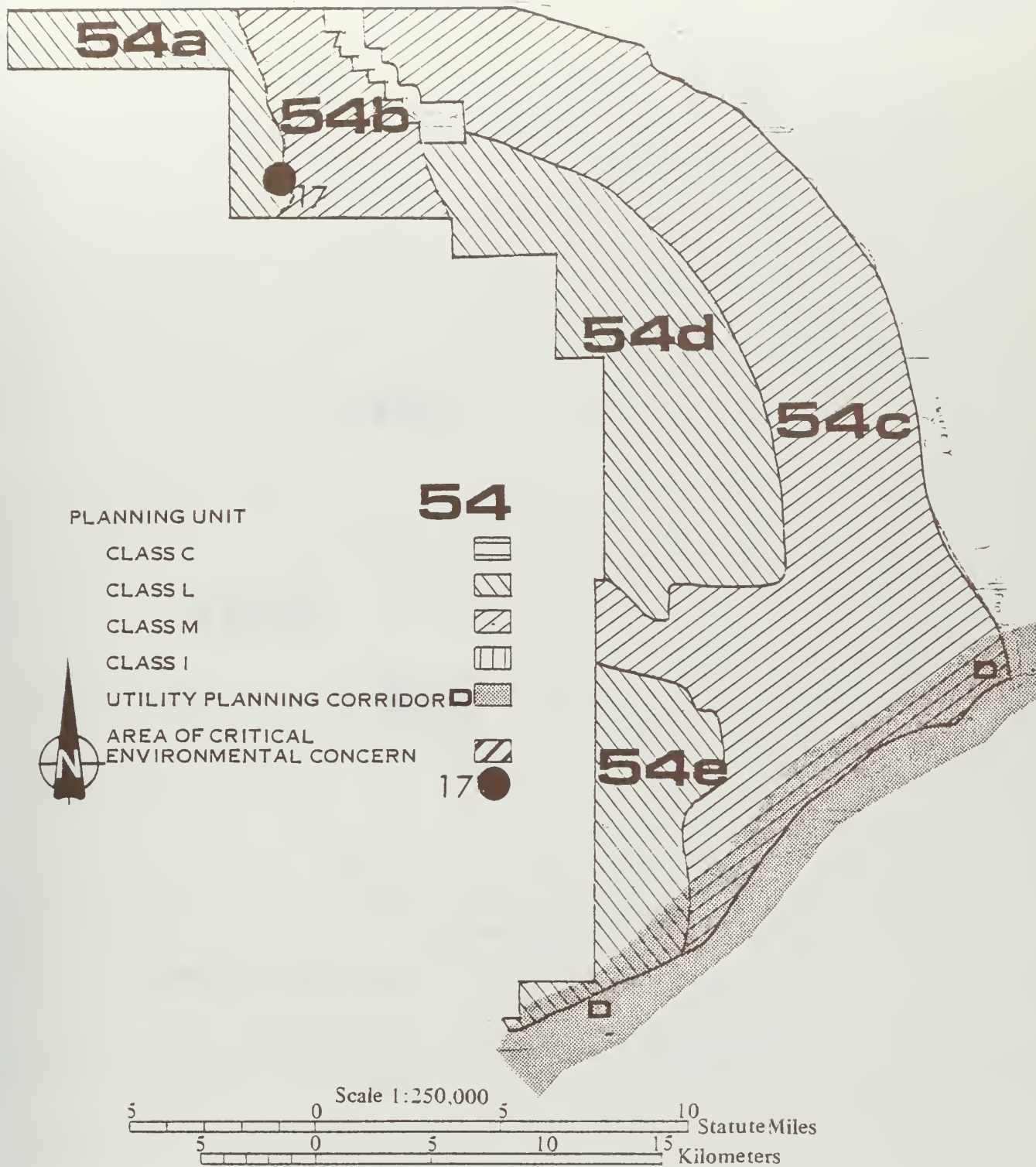
6. Grazing. None.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Areas are identified.

8. Recreation. The major activities include motorcycle freeplay/touring, four-wheel-drive touring and dune buggy touring.

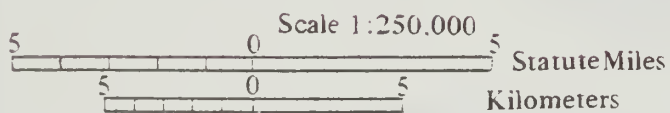
9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. The Avawatz Mountains have resources including iron, salt, gypsum, strontium, silver, copper, gold, talc, limestone and quartzite. Presently iron is produced from the mines west of Silver Lake. Iron reserves of 7.8 million long tons of iron are projected. Several thousand tons of talc have been produced from the Sheep Creek Mine on the north end of the range. Also on the north end of the range there are substantial reserves of salt (halite), strontium (celestite) and gypsum. Small amounts of copper and gold have been mined near Denning Springs. And an extensive area is claimed for placer gold. Some silver, lead, copper and zinc may have been produced from the Avawatz Crown Mine west of Old Mormon Spring. The Goodwater Silver Mine may soon be active, since a reclamation plan and plan operations were submitted in August 1980 to San Bernardino County. Limestone and quartzite crop out near Silver Lake.

The Denning Springs Mines, the gypsum, halite, celestite, and talc deposits, the Avawatz Crown Mine, the iron mines and the Goodwater Mine five miles south of the iron mines are patented. There are a total of 113 patented claims and as of December 1979 there were about 140 unpatented claims recorded with the BLM.



MAP 62





## PLANNING UNIT 54

HABITAT MGMT PLAN

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT

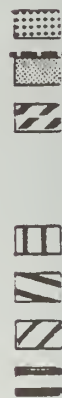
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



MAP 63

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class. This planning unit is recommended as Class M to provide for vehicle access for mineral exploration, recreation, and grazing management in an area with relatively few outstanding natural resources. (57, Map 64)
2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.
3. Wildlife Management. No special management plans are proposed.
4. Grazing Allotments. Valley Wells allotment remains designated as ephemeral/perennial with a slight reduction from the 4,848 AUMs presently authorized to 4,640 AUMs. The existing year-long season of use is unchanged. The medium priority AMP will consider the needs of bighorn sheep. See part four of the Grazing Appendix for additional discussion. (51, Map 65)
5. Wild Horses and Burros. This planning unit contains the Clark Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA). The current 365 head will be reduced to 44 head. The remaining 44 head will be restricted to the west portion of the HMA; the Clark Mountains will provide habitat for the bighorn sheep. The management of this HMA will be discussed in the East Mojave Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The HMAP is medium priority and will be completed by the of Fiscal Year 1981. (F, Map 64)
6. Utility Corridors. The planning unit is bounded on the north and south sides by utility corridors "D" and "BB" respectively. (D, BB, Map 64)
7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple-use class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Small parts of this planning unit are included within identified areas of known high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance. The resources are concentrated around the lake margins, springs, and near the turquoise deposits. Both prehistoric and historic resources are incorporated within this planning unit.
2. Native American. The Mesquite Valley is currently used as a seasonal collection area by some Panamint-Shoshone and Chemehuevi. Temporary camps and springs identified as places of spiritual power are present.
3. Wildlife. No federal or state-listed species are present within this planning unit. A BLM sensitive species, the desert tortoise, is present within the planning unit.
4. Vegetation. No significant plant species or habitat have been identified.
5. Wilderness. One Wilderness Study Area, #228, Hollow Hills, rated

75 out of 137, is within the planning unit.

6. Grazing. The range condition of the Valley Wells Allotment is fair.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. The Clark Mountain Herd Management Area presently has 365 head of wild horses and burros. The condition of the range is fair.

8. Recreation. The area contains one highly rated interpretive site, the Toltec Mines. The planning unit contains approximately 15 miles of Interstate 15 which is eligible for State Scenic Route. Major activities include dune buggy/four-wheel play, camping, sightseeing, rockhounding, and hobby prospecting.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. The Wanderer (Wonder) Mine, west of Halloran Spring is a former gold producer. Three other copper and/or gold prospects are located near this mine. Turquoise Mountain was named for the gemstone which occurs here though most of the easily extractable material has been removed. This area is very favorable for copper-molybdenum porphyry mineralization. There has been recent exploration for this type of deposit and small amounts of these minerals were found. Talc has also been found near Turquoise Mountain. Minor radioactive anomalies were located by the Atomic Energy Commission in the 1950s, but these are not significant. Approximately 81 unpatented claims have been recorded with the BLM, and there are more than 10 patented claims.

#### PLANNING UNIT #60

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

###### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for mineral exploration, grazing management, and recreation, while mitigating impact of permitted uses on sensitive desert resources. (60a, Map 64)

b) This area is recommended as Class C because of its wilderness characteristics, high scenic quality, wildlife, vegetation, unique land forms, and cultural resources. (60b, Map 64)

c) This area is recommended as Class L to protect the natural and cultural resources and to provide for mineral exploration and grazing management. (60c, Map 64)

d) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for active and potential mining activities. (60d, Map 64)

e. This area is recommended as Class L to protect primitive characteristics, desert resources, and Native American concerns. (60e, Map 64)

###### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. The objective of the wildlife Habitat Management Plan for Indian Springs is to protect and enhance wildlife values. Completion of the plan will be within 7 years. Long-term management will require protection of water sources. (W28, Map 65)

4. Grazing Allotments. There are two grazing allotments within this planning unit. The Kessler Springs Allotment will continue to be designated as ephemeral/perennial. The authorized use will remain 8,016 Animal Unit Months. The season of use will remain year-long. This is a high priority AMP. Its objective will be to maintain and enhance the highly crucial desert tortoise habitat. The grazing system will consider grazing deferment in the spring to meet this objective. (46, Map 65).

The Valley View Allotment remains designated as ephemeral/perennial. The authorized use is unchanged at 8,485 Animal Unit Months. Season of use will continue to be year-long. The high priority Allotment Management Plan will consider the bighorn sheep and desert tortoise needs. (50, Map 65)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. The Lava Beds Herd Management Area is within this planning unit. The present population of 75 head of wild burros will remain. The management of this HMA is discussed in the East Mojave Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). This HMAP is medium priority and will be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1981. (K, Map 65)

The planning unit contains a small portion of the Cima Dome Herd Management Area (HMA). The population of wild burros will be maintained at 55. The management of this HMA will be discussed in the East Mojave Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). This HMAP is medium priority and will be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1982. (E, Map 65)

6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor BB forms the northern border of this planning unit. (BB, Map 64)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Large portions of the planning unit are covered by zones of known high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance. A wide diversity of site types is present in this planning unit, with an unusually high percentage of rock art sites. The area also contains a relatively high percentage of complex sites (rockshelters, temporary camps), many of which are associated with the numerous water sources that occur in this area. Scattered historical remains are present in this polygon.

2. Native American. Several Native American trails cross this planning unit. The mountains in this area have been identified as significant in both Mohave and chemehuevi myths.

3. Wildlife. No federally or state listed species are present within this planning unit. The desert tortoise, a BLM sensitive species, and the golden



eagle are present within the unit. Indian Springs is a unique riparian habitat.

4. Vegetation. The planning unit does not possess any sensitive plants or unusual plant communities.

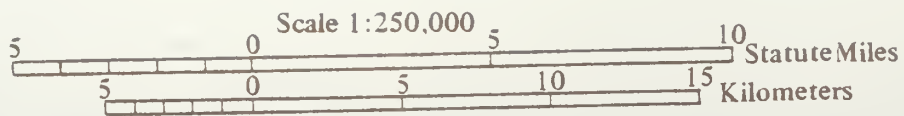
5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #60 contains two Wilderness Study Areas. Cinder Cones, WSA #239 is rated 46 out of 137, and the Rainbow Wells Wilderness Study Area, WSA #244, is rated 104 out of 137.

6. Grazing. The Valley View Allotment range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. The Lava Beds Herd Management Area range condition is good. About 75 wild burros are present.

8. Recreational. Excellent hiking/backpacking opportunities exist in the Lava Beds west of Cima Dome. The planning area contains one highly rated interpretive site, the Baker cinder Cone field. 40 percent of planning area is rated as excellent scenic quality.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. This area includes two active cinder quarries, two former cinder producers, and large areas from which cinders could be obtained. There are three former gold producers in this planning area. The Telegraph Mine near Halloran Spring may still contain gold resources or reserves. The Paymaster and Brannigan mines in the northern Old Dad Mountains, and the Telegraph Mine produced rich ore intermittently from 1900 to 1953. Silver and lead may also have been found in the Paymaster-Brannigan area. Most of Planning Unit #60 has been classified as a potential Geothermal Resource Area by the U. S. Geological Survey. Approximately 30 unpatented claims have been recorded with the BLM as of December, 1979.



PLANNING UNIT

**57,60**

CLASS C



CLASS L



CLASS M



CLASS I

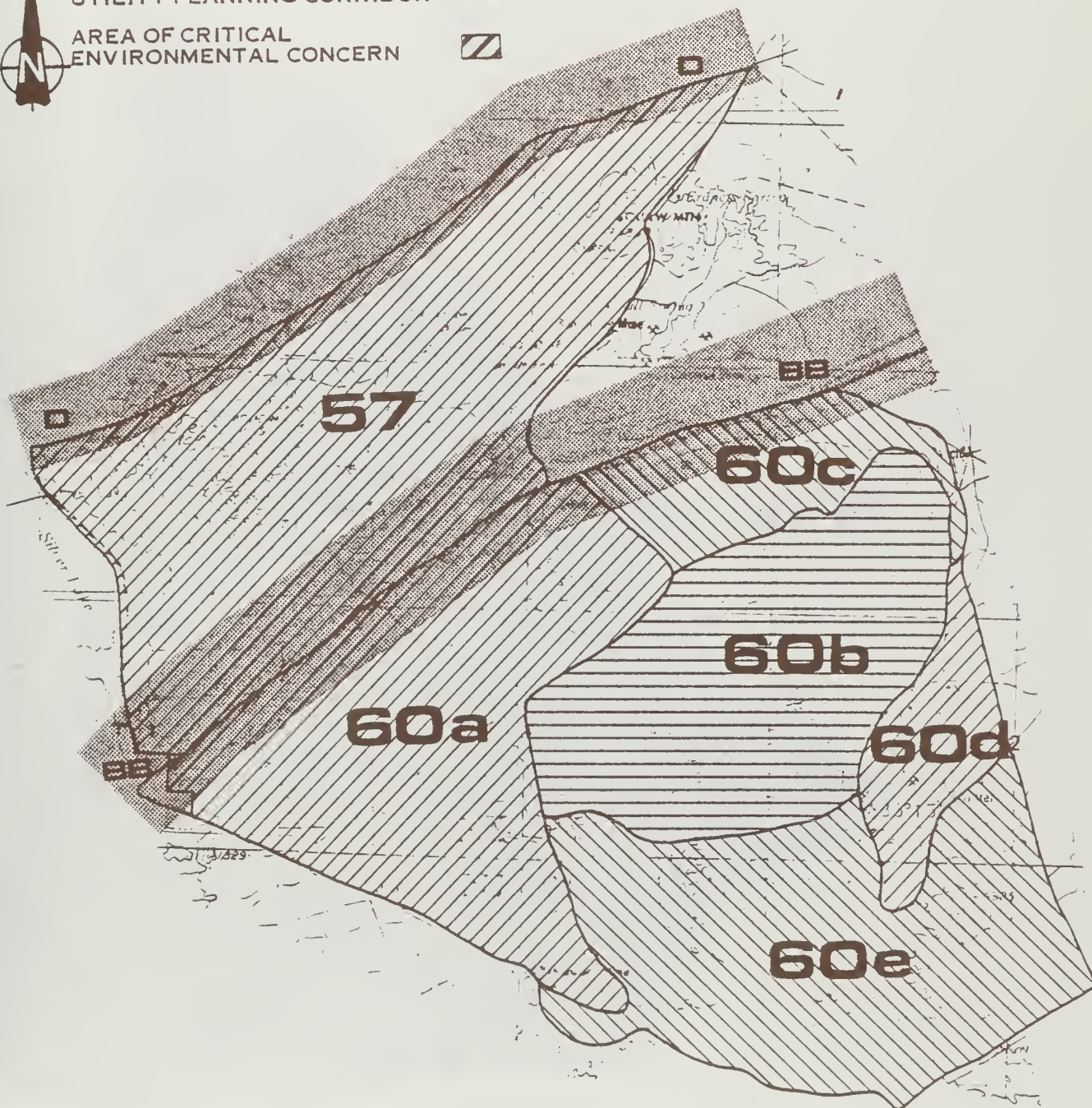


UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR



**D, BB**

AREA OF CRITICAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



MAP 64



PLANNING UNIT **57,60**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **W28**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **FKE**

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **50,51,46**

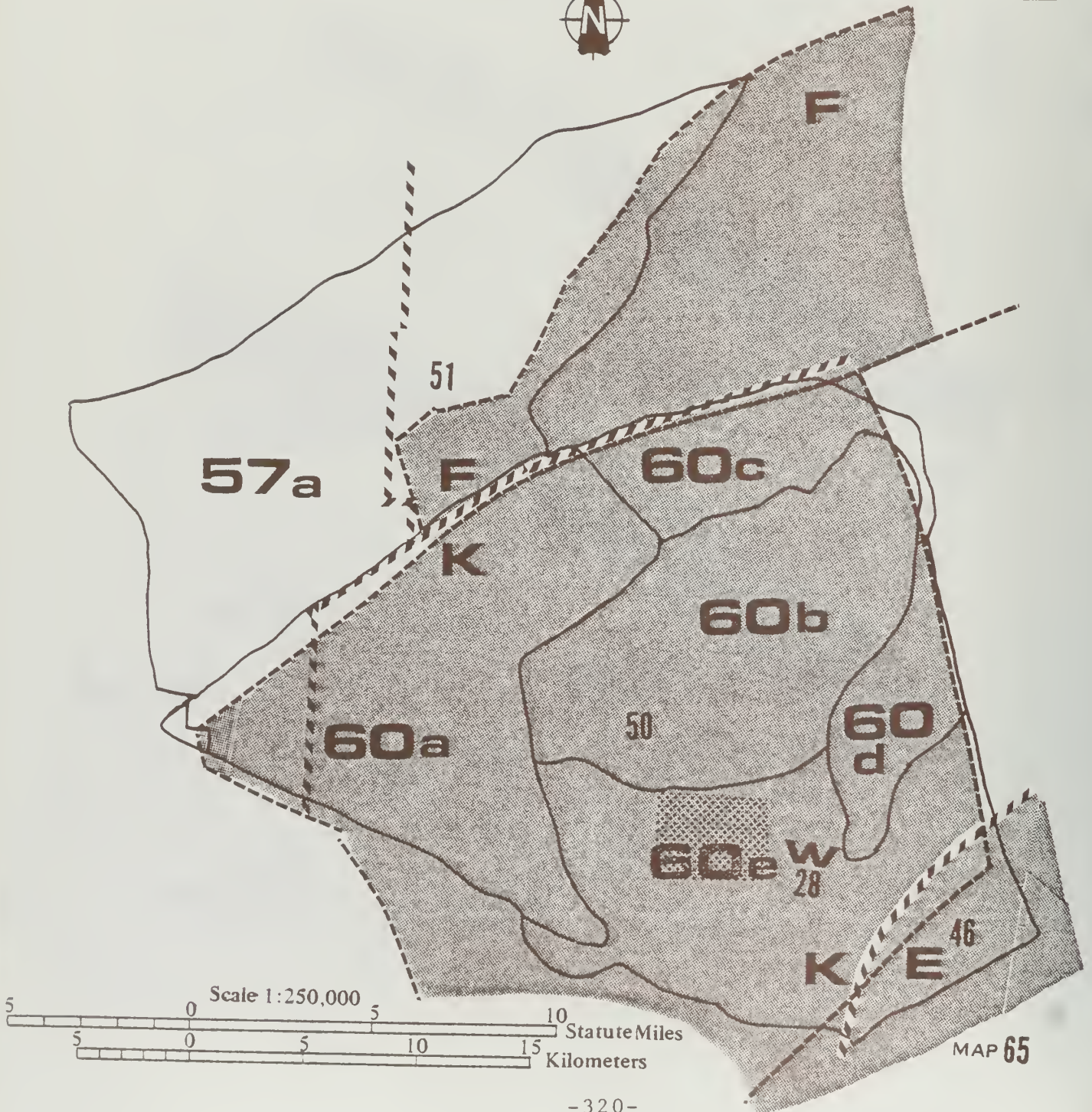
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



MAP 65

## PLANNING UNIT #58

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class (by sub area). This portion of Planning Unit #58 is recommended as Class M to provide for vehicle access for recreation and mineral exploration and development, while mitigating impacts of permitted uses on desert resources. (58a, Map 66)

b) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, scenic quality, vegetative and cultural resources while providing access for recreation, grazing management, and mineral exploration. An ACEC (#43) at Afton Canyon will protect the valuable natural resources and the riparian habitat. (58b, Map 66)

c) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for traditional vehicle-oriented recreational use and mineral exploration while mitigating impacts of permitted uses on sensitive desert resources in this case, particularly historic and prehistoric resources. (58c, Map 66)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Two areas are proposed for ACEC designation. Mesquite Hills/Crucero ACEC (#42); the management objective is to protect prehistoric values. (42, map 66) ACEC #43, Afton Canyon, will protect vegetation, wildlife habitat, outstanding scenic qualities and riparian areas. (43, Map 66)

3. Wildlife. Planning Unit #58 contains two Habitat Management Plans (HMP). The objective of the HMP for the Cady Mountains is to protect and enhance wildlife values in the Cady Mountains, especially the desert bighorn sheep range. Completion of the plan is to be within 5 years. Long-term management will require acquisition of private lands and protection of water sources. (W 30, Map 67)

The objective of the HMP for Afton Canyon is to protect and enhance wildlife values in Afton Canyon, especially the marsh and riparian habitats which support a wide variety of bird species and western pond turtles. This HMP area also includes the Afton Canyon ACEC #43. Completion of the plan will be within 2 years. Long-term management will require acquisition of private lands and protection of water sources. (43, Map 67)

4. Grazing Allotments. Afton Canyon Allotment. This allotment remains designated as an ephemeral range type. It will be subject to a 200 pound per acre dry weight of annual vegetation before turnout. This 200 pound per acre requirement is to insure forage for Desert Tortoise. This AMP is medium priority. Please refer to part four of the Grazing appendix for additional discussion. (38, Map 67).

5. Wild Horse and Burros. No Herd Management Area Plans are proposed.

6. Utility Corridors. Planning Unit #58 is bordered by two utility corridors: D (BB) on the northwest and G on the south. (D, G, Map 66)

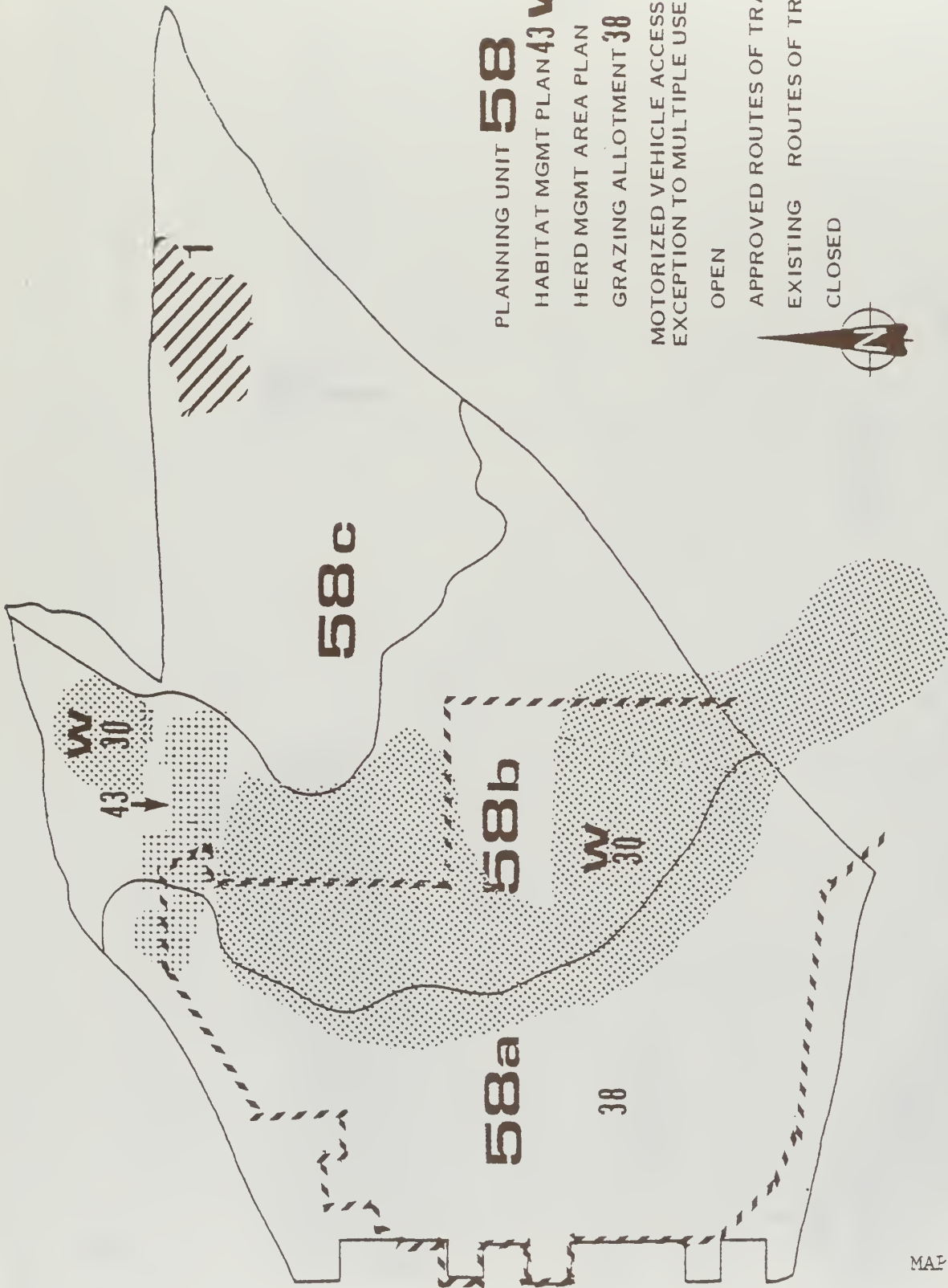
7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There is one exception to the Multiple Use Class guidelines in Planning Unit 58. The Mesquite Hills/Crucero ACEC, designated as an area of existing routes of travel will be managed as approved routes of travel to protect fragile resource areas (1, Map 67).



## B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Extensive portions of the planning area are incorporated within zones of recognized high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance. A majority of site types are represented within this planning area, the highest number of which are lithic sites which are associated with the desert pavement areas, and temporary camps, located along the terraces of the Mojave River. Other sites are associated with margin of the dry lakes that were once part of the ancient Lake Mojave.
2. Native American. None identified.
3. Wildlife. No federally or state listed species are present within the Planning Unit. The BLM sensitive species are desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep. The Golden Eagle, and western pond turtle, are other important species inhabiting this planning unit.
4. Vegetation. This planning unit contains the Afton Canyon riparian system of the Mojave River. There are some very extensive mesquite thickets and large concentrations of desert willows in the Mojave Sink.
5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #58 contains two Wilderness Study Areas. WSA #251 A, Mesquite Spring, is rated 133 out of 137. WSA #251, Cady Mountain, is rated 92 out of 137.
6. Grazing. The range condition of the Afton Canyon allotment is considered fair.
7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.
8. Recreation. Excellent hiking and birdwatching opportunities exist in Afton Canyon. The canyon also contains a highly rated interpretive site. Rock collecting is a major activity in the Cady Mountains. Thirty miles of Interstate 15 is rated as eligible as a state scenic route. Major activities include four wheel drive touring, motorcycle and dune buggy touring, sightseeing, camping, hiking nature study and horseback riding.
9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. This planning area contains an important present producer of iron, in the northern Cady Mountains, just south of Cave Mountain. Manganese was produced in the central Cadys before 1960. Also produced were silica, fluorspar, and magnesite. Reserves or resources of zeolites and hectorite are reported northwest of Hector Siding. Reserves of high-calcium limestone are reported in the northern Cadys near the iron mine. Uranium occurrences in the Harvard Hills are undergoing exploration. Roofing granules were produced in the western part of Mojave Valley, and may still be producing. There are numerous occurrences of barite, gold, lead, fluorspar, marble, limestone, and iron reported in this planning area. The U.S. Geological Survey has classified the areas around Manix and Crucero as prospectively valuable for oil and gas; Broadwell Lake and the area around Hector as prospectively valuable for oil and gas; and the area around Hector as a Potential Geothermal Resource Area. There were about 74 unpatented mining claims recorded with the BLM as of December 1979.





PLANNING UNIT **58**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **43** **W30**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **38**

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

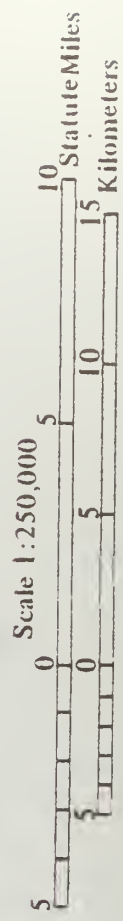
OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL **1**

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED

MAP **67**





## PLANNING UNIT #59

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class (by sub area).

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect rare and sensitive wildlife species, scenic quality, sensitive cultural areas and areas of Native American concern. This MUC will provide vehicle access for grazing management, mineral exploration and recreation. ACEC #41 will protect prehistoric, historic and wildlife values at Fort Soda. (59a, Map 68).

b) This portion of the Planning Unit is recommended as Class M to provide access for recreation and mineral exploration while mitigating impacts to sensitive desert resources. (59b, Map 68)

c) This area is recommended as Class M to permit vehicle access for mineral exploration and recreation. (59c, Map 68)

d) This area is recommended Class I to serve as an ORV free play ("open") area. (59, Map 68).

2. Areas of Critical Environment Concern. Planning Unit #59 contains one area proposed ACEC #41, Fort Soda/Mohave Chub. The management objective of this ACEC is to preserve prehistoric, and wildlife values.

3. Wildlife Management. A wildlife Habitat Management Plan will be prepared with the objective to protect and enhance wildlife values at and adjacent to Fort Soda, especially the marshes and Mohave chub habitat. Fort Soda is the only location where Mohave chub currently are found. This HMP area also includes the Fort Soda/Mohave chub ACEC. The Fort Soda HMP has been completed and is being implemented. Long-term management will require protection of water sources. (41, Map 69)

4. Grazing Allotment. Two grazing allotments are within this planning unit:

Valley View allotment - this allotment remains designated as ephemeral/perennial. The authorized use remains unchanged at 8485 AUMs. The season of use will be year round. The high priority AMP will consider bighorn sheep and desert tortoise needs. (50, Map 69)

Granite Mountains Allotment. The allotment will keep its ephemeral/perennial designation, but the authorized level of use will be reduced from 4,716 to 4,003 Animal Unit Months because of the exclusion of the Kelso Dunes. A medium priority Allotment Management Plan will discuss grazing on the dunes and the requirements of desert bighorn sheep.

The Kelso Mountain Allotment was eliminated due to wildlife values. The Soda Lake Allotment was eliminated due to archaeological and wildlife values present.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. The Lava Beds Herd Management Area is within the Planning Unit. The present population of 75 head of wild burros will remain.



The management of this HMA is discussed in the East Mojave Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). This HMAP is medium priority and will be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1981. (K, Map 69)

6. Utility Corridor. Utility corridor BB forms the northwest boundary for the planning unit. (BB, Map 68)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There is one large area in which there will be an exception to the recommended vehicle access of existing or approved routes of travel. This area will be closed to vehicle access to protect Soda Dry Lake and an area of dunes. (1, Map 69)

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. The planning area includes extensive segments of Pleistocene Lake Mojave. A great number of sites are to be found in association with the different terraces and along the shore of the dry lake. Other sites are situated in the dunes along the south side of the lake. Historic sites are also present and they represent railroad features, habitation areas, transportation corridors and mining ventures. The highest complexity of historic material probably occurs along Silver Lake and along the Old Government Road, a small portion of which crosses the planning area.

2. Native American. Several Native American trails cross this planning unit. The mountains here have been identified as significant in both Mohave and Chemehuevi myths.

3. Wildlife. The Mohave Chub is a Federally and State listed species. The desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep are BLM sensitive species. The golden eagle is an important species present. The Fort Soda Marshes provide a unique habitat for the Mohave Chub.

4. Vegetation. No significant plant species or habitat have been identified within this Planning Unit.

5. Wilderness. Two Wilderness Study Areas are within Planning Unit #59. Old Dad Mountain, WSA #243 is rated 91 out of 137. Kelso Mountain, WSA #249 is rated 89 out of 137.

6. Grazing. The Valley View Allotment - Range condition is good. The Granite Mountains Allotment - Range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burro. Lava Beds Herd management area - Range condition is good.

8. Recreation. Excellent hiking/backpacking in Devils' Playground area with excellent hiking opportunities in area of Cowhole Mountain. The planning area contains one highly rated interpretive site, Soda Spring also known as Fort Soda or Zzyzx..

45 percent of planning area rated as excellent scenic quality (primarily Devils Playground)

Major activities include camping, four wheel drive, touring, and play, motorcycle play and touring, and sightseeing, nature study, target shooting.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. In this planning area, the Oro Fino and Comet mines have produced gold, silver, and lead. Mineral commodities that have been produced, but for which production was small or unrecorded are dimension stone, sand and gravel, lead, iron, and sodium. There are reported prospects of asbestos and limestone in the planning area. The Little Cowhole Mountain area is undergoing exploration for uranium. The U. S. Geological Survey has classified the eastern corner of the planning area as a Potential Geothermal Resource Area, and the Soda Lake area has prospectively valuable for sodium, potassium, oil, and gas. The planning area contains about 10 unpatented mining claims which are recorded with the BLM as of December 1979.



# 59

## PLANNING UNIT

CLASS C

CLASS L

CLASS M

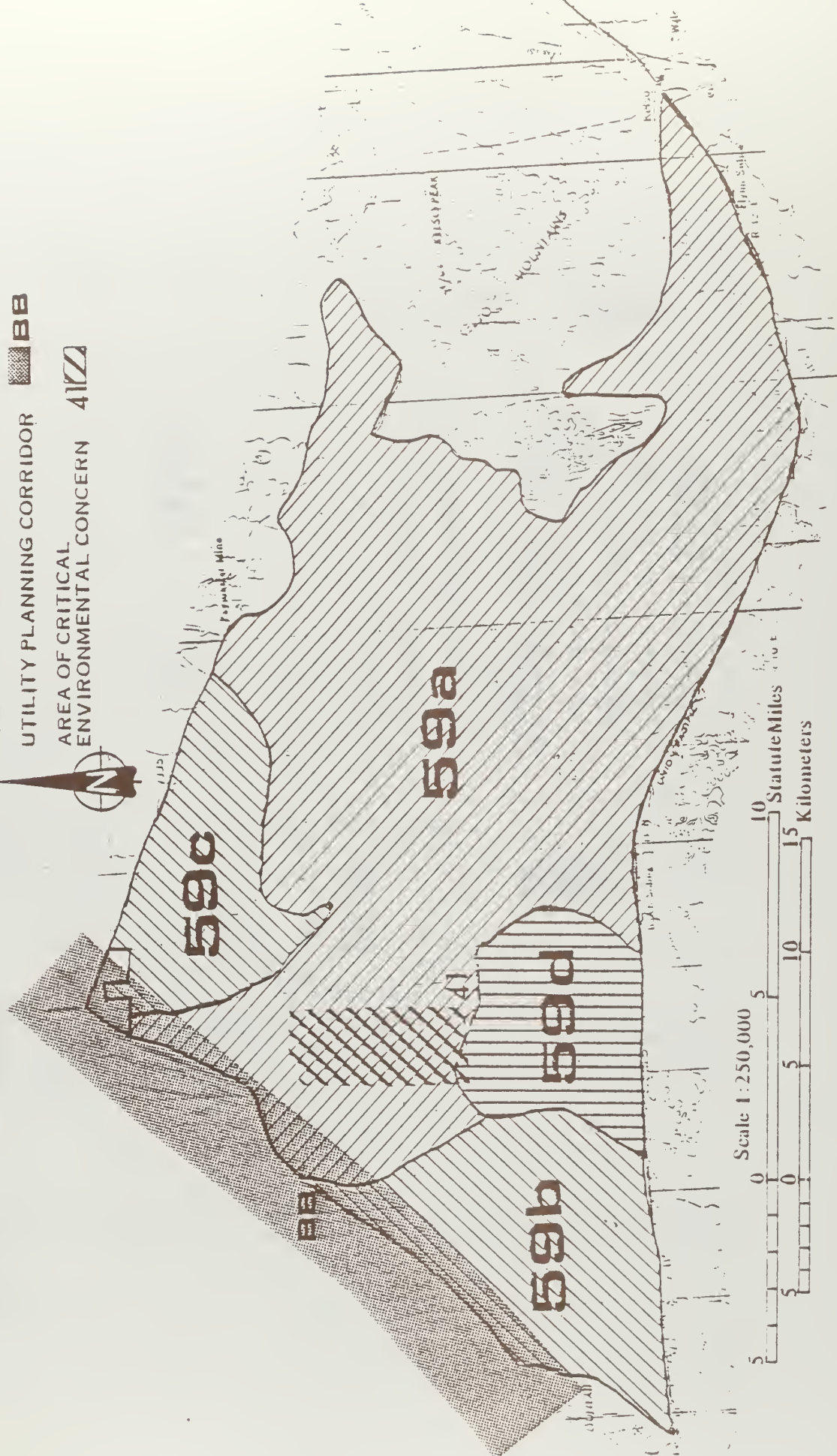
CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

BB

4172



Scale 1:250,000

0 5 10 15

Statute Miles

Kilometers



# PLANNING UNIT **59**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **41**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **43,50**

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

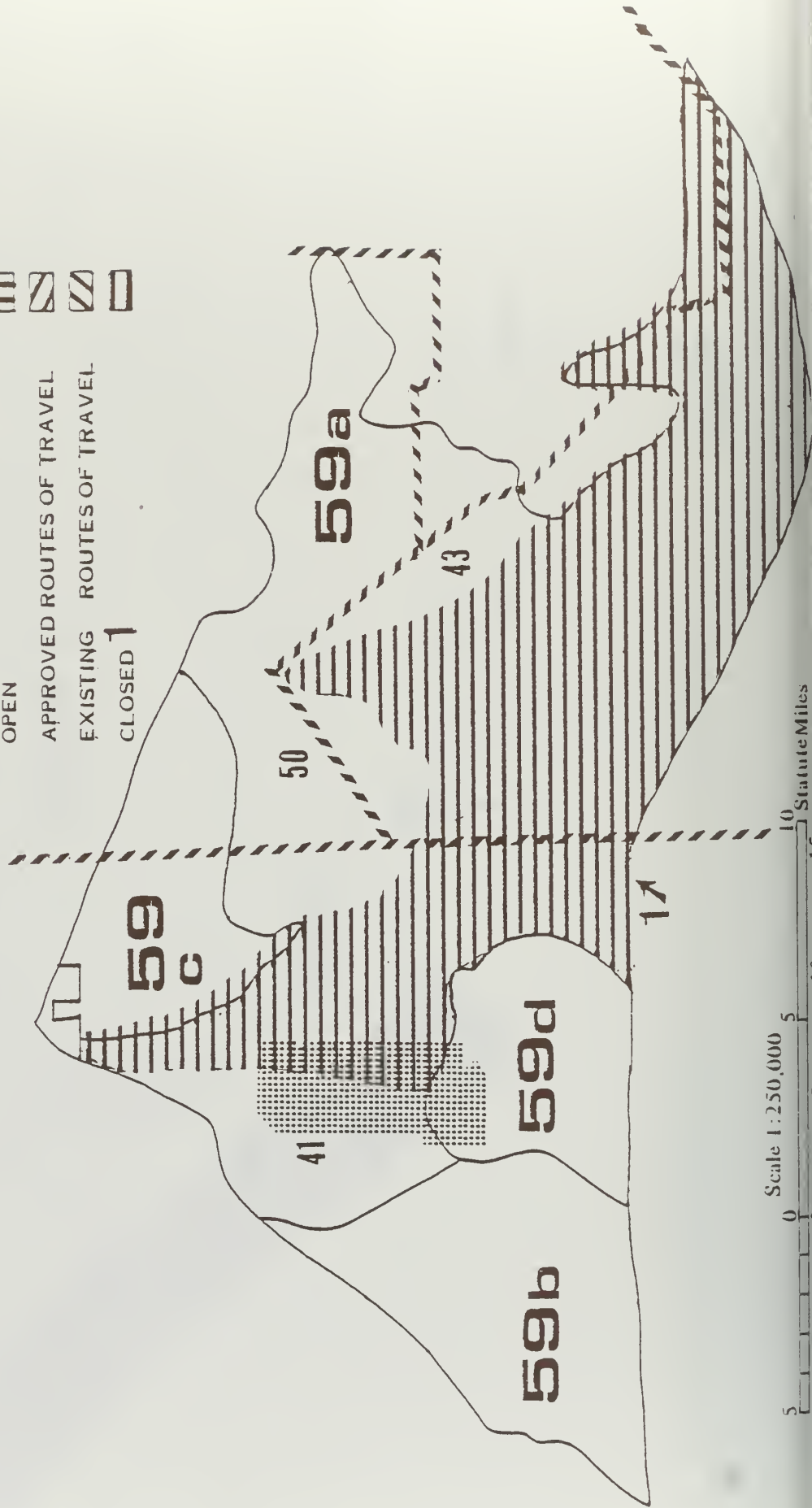


OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED **1**



Scale 1:250,000  
0 5 10  
Statute Miles

PLANNING UNIT #61

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class. All of Planning Unit 61 is recommended as Class L to protect sensitive wildlife species, vegetation, sensitive soils, scenic quality, cultural resources, and Native American concerns, while providing limited access for mineral exploration and grazing and burro management. (61, Map 70).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. No Habitat Management Plans are proposed.

4. Grazing Allotments. Kessler Springs Allotment. It will maintain an ephemeral/perennial designation, and will continue the current authorized use level of 8,016 Animal Unit Months. The season of use will be year long. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will have as an objective the maintenance and enhancement of critical desert tortoise habitat. The AMP will consider a grazing deferment in the spring to meet this objective. (46, Map 71)

Granite Mountains Allotment. The allotment will keep its ephemeral/perennial designation, but the authorized level of use will be reduced from 4,716 to 4,003 Animal Unit Months because of the exclusion of the Kelso Dunes. A medium priority Allotment Management Plan will discuss grazing on the dunes, and the requirements of desert bighorn sheep. (43, Map 71).

Valley View Allotment. This allotment remains designated as ephemeral/perennial. The authorized use is unchanged at 8,485 Animal Unit Months. Season-of-use will continue to be yearlong. The high priority Allotment Management Plan will consider the bighorn sheep and desert tortoise needs. (50, Map 71)

Kelso Mountains Allotment. This proposed allotment was eliminated because of wildlife concerns.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Cima Dome Herd Management Area. The population of wild burros will be maintained at fifty-five animals. The management of this HMP is discussed in the East Mojave Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The HMAP is medium priority and scheduled by the end of Fiscal Year 1982. (E, Map 71)

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines with respect to motorized vehicle access in Planning Unit #61.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. The Mojave Trail is the major area of known high cultural resource sensitivity/significance that occurs in this planning unit, which

contains many historic sites. Prehistoric sites are not concentrated in any part of the planning unit.

2. Native American. No sites of religious importance or of secular concern have been identified.

3. Wildlife. There are two BLM sensitive species present, the desert tortoise and the desert bighorn sheep. Other important species in the Planning Unit are the golden eagle and prairie falcon.

4. Vegetation. One sensitive species is present.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #61 contains a portion of Wilderness Study Area #249, Kelso Mountain. It was ranked number 89 out of 137.

6. Grazing. The Kessler Springs Allotment range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burro. The Cima Dome Herd Management Area range is fair.

8. Recreation. None.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Tungsten was mined from the area around Marl Spring. Occurrences of lead and uranium are reported from the unit. There are copper occurrences at the southeast end of the Kelso Mountains. These occurrences have been extensively prospected, with drilling evidently taking place within the last decade. The U.S. Geological Survey has classified the area just north of Kelso Peak as prospectively valuable for oil and gas. As of December 1979, four unpatented claims were recorded with the BLM.

#### PLANNING UNIT #62

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

##### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a. This area is recommended as Class C to protect its outstanding wilderness qualities, wildlife, vegetation, scenic, and cultural resources. (62a, Map 70)

b. This small portion on the eastern edge of the unit is designated Class L to permit limited access for mineral exploration and development and for burro management. (62b, Map 70)

##### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Granite Mountains. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially desert bighorn sheep. Completion of the plan is to be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros, changes in livestock grazing practices, acquisition of private land and protection of water sources. (W33, Map 71)

4. Grazing Allotments. Granite Mountains Allotment. The allotment will

keep its ephemeral/perennial designation, but the authorized level of use will be reduced from 4,716 to 4,003 Animal Unit Months because of the exclusion of the Kelso Dunes. A medium priority Allotment Management Plan will discuss grazing on the dunes, and the requirements of desert bighorn sheep.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Granite/Providences Wild Burro Area. The management objective is to remove all feral burros from this area because of overriding wildlife resource values. The removal of burros in this area is discussed in the capture plan portion of the East Mojave Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The HMAP is medium priority and is scheduled for completion by the end of Fiscal Year 1982. (I, Map 71)

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the Multiple use class guidelines.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources Major portions of the planning unit contain known zones of high and very high cultural resource values. The prehistoric resources include a wide diversity of site types, many with a high degree of complexity, i.e., rockshelters. The prehistoric sites are associated with the numerous water sources, with the pinyon and agave zones, and in those areas where natural outcrops of silicified lithic material are present. Scattered historic remains can also be expected in this planning unit.

2. Native American Values. There are no sites of religious importance, or of secular concern identified.

3. Wildlife. The desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep are the only BLM sensitive species present. Other significant species include the golden eagle, prairie falcon, pallid bat, and mule deer. The Kelso Dunes are of particular importance to wildlife.

4. Vegetation. No special vegetation values were identified.

5. Wilderness. There is a portion of Wilderness Study Area #256, Bristol/Granite Mountains, in Planning Unit #62. It is ranked #30 out of 137. There is also a portion of WSA #250, Kelso Dunes. It is ranked 11 out of 137.

6. Grazing. Granite Mountain Allotment - Range condition is good.

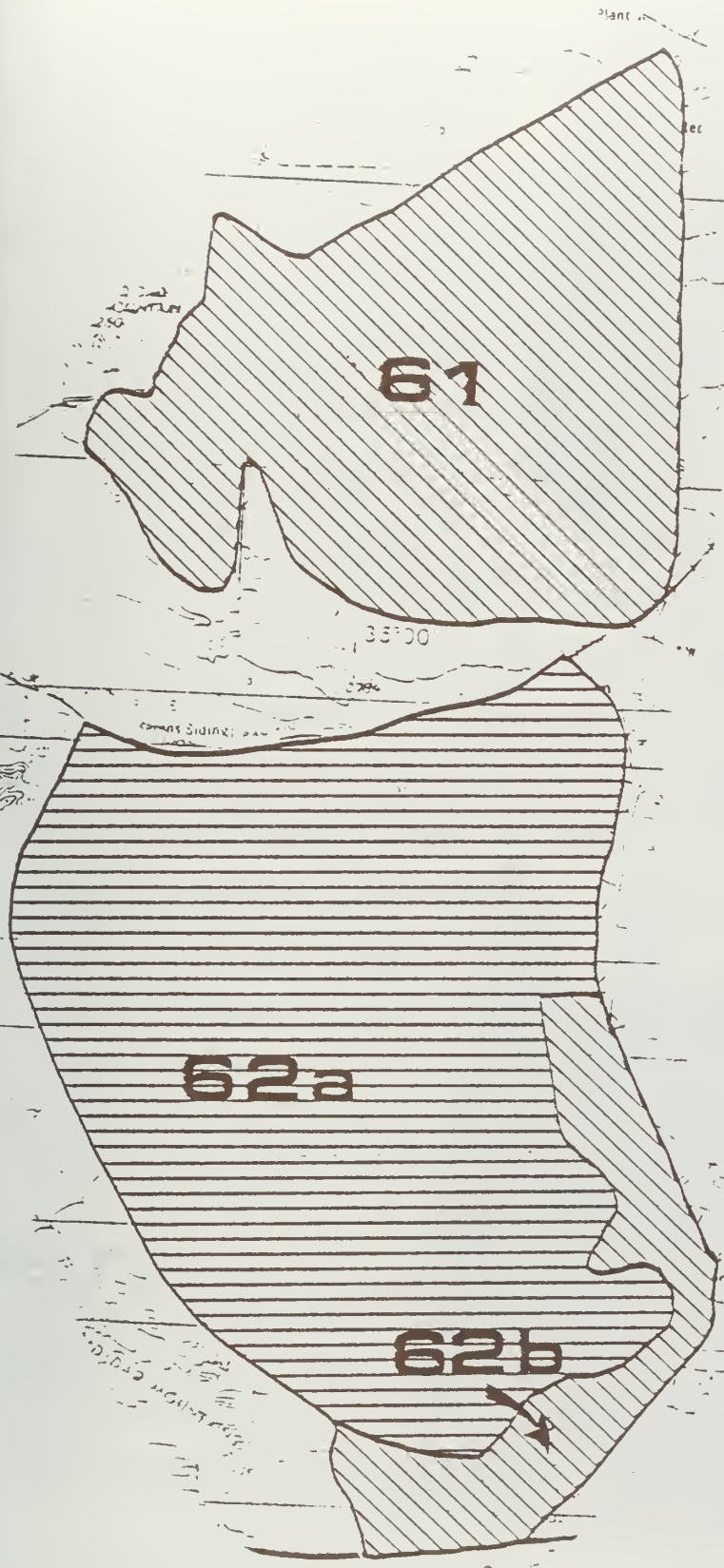
7. Wild Horses and Burros. The Granite/Providences Wild Burro Area is in fair condition.

8. Recreation. There are excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities in the Devil's Playground, Kelso Dunes, and Granite Mountains. The area along the Kelbaker Road from Kelso to Granite Pass is capable of an outstanding floral display when conditions are right. 80 percent of the Planning Unit received an "excellent" scenic quality rating. There are three highly rated interpretive, educational, and research areas, the Kelso Dunes, the Granite Mountains and the Kelbaker floral area. Current activities include



sightseeing, photography, camping, hiking, target shooting, hunting, and four-wheel drive touring.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. The Granite Mountains have reported occurrences of copper and iron. Prospecting and exploration have taken place in the past. Large uranium and uranium/thorium ratio gamma-ray anomalies cover much of the southern Granite Mountains. Gold and large quantities of iron are reported in the Kelso Dunes. About 40 mining claims were recorded with the BLM in this Planning area, as of December 1979.



PLANNING UNIT

CLASS C

CLASS L

CLASS M

CLASS I

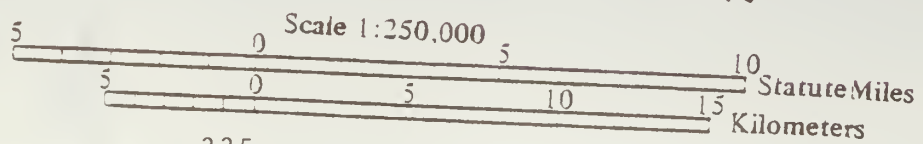
UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

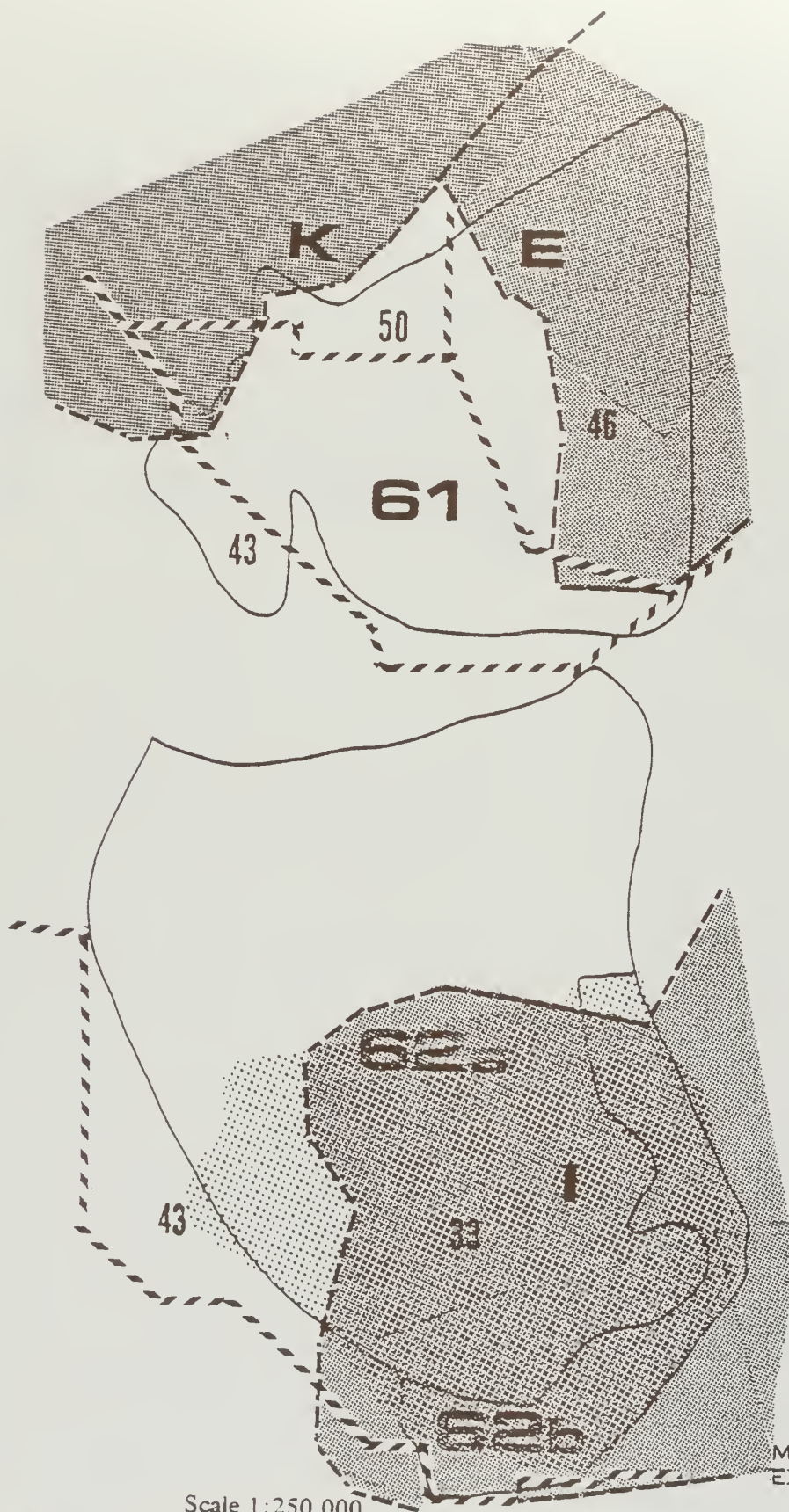
AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

61,62



MAP 70





PLANNING UNIT **61,62**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **33**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **KEI**

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **43,46,50**

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED





PLANNING UNIT #63

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class.

a) A major portion of Planning Unit 63 is recommended for Class L designation. It contains parts of two wilderness study areas (250,256), habitats for sensitive wildlife species (desert bighorn and raptors), and culturally sensitive areas. This class permits limited access for mineral exploration, grazing and burro management, and recreation. (63a, Map 72)

b) This section is recommended as Class M to provide access for mineral exploration and grazing and burro management while mitigating impacts on sensitive desert resources by permitted uses. (63a, Map 72)

c) This area is recommended as multiple use class L to protect wildlife habitats while providing limited vehicle access. (63 c, Map 72)

d) This area is recommended as Class M due to present and patented mining activities. (63d, Map 72)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be proposed for the Old Dad Mountains. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values in the Old Dad Mountains, especially desert bighorn sheep. Completion of the plan will be within 5 years. Long-term management will require protection of water sources. (W32, Map 73)

A Habitat Management Plan will be proposed for the Cady Mountains. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values in the Cady Mountains, especially desert bighorn sheep. Completion of the plan will be within 5 years. Long-term management will require acquisition of private lands and protection of water sources. (W30, Map 73)

A Habitat Management Plan will be proposed for the Granite Mountains. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially desert bighorn sheep. Completion of the plan is to be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros, changes in livestock grazing practices, acquisition of private land and protection of water sources. (W33, Map 73)

4. Grazing Allotments. Granite Mountains Allotment. The allotment will keep its ephemeral/perennial designation, but the authorized level of use will be reduced from 4,716 to 4,003 Animal Unit Months because of the exclusion of the Kelso Dunes. A medium priority Allotment Management Plan will discuss grazing on the dunes, and the requirements of desert bighorn sheep. (43, Map 73)

Afton Canyon Allotment. This will retain an ephemeral designation, but is now subject to 200 pounds per acre of air dry annual vegetation before turnout. The Allotment Management Plan is medium priority. Please refer to Appendix



XIII for more information. (38, Map 73)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Granite/Providences Wild Burro Area. The management objective is to remove all feral burros from this area because of overriding wildlife values. The removal of burros in this area is discussed in the capture plan portion of the East Mojave Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The HMAP is medium priority and is scheduled for completion by the end of Fiscal Year 1982. (I, Map 73)

6. Utility Corridors. Utility corridor "G" passes alongside the southwestern boundary of the Planning Unit. It follows an existing route of travel, and is a part of a regional network designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption. (G, Map 72)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Only a few scattered areas of known high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are present in this large planning unit. Prehistoric and historic sites are present in this area. The historic sites are related to transportation, temporary habitation, burial, mining, etc. Some of the prehistoric sites are located on the north side of Broadwell; others are apparently related to the seasonal exploitation of resources in the higher elevations of the Bristol Mountains.

2. Native American. No sites of religious importance, or of secular concern have been identified.

3. Wildlife. The only BLM sensitive species found within the Planning Unit is the desert bighorn sheep. The other important species are the golden eagle and prairie falcon. The bighorn sheep habitat in the Granite Mountains is particularly important.

4. Vegetation. There are no special vegetation values.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #63 contains portions of three wilderness study areas: WSA #250 Kelso Dunes, ranked 11 out of 137; WSA #252, Sleeping Beauty Mountain ranked 130 out of 137; WSA #256, Bristol/Granite Mountain, ranked 30 out of 137.

6. Grazing. Granite Mountains Allotment - Range condition is good.

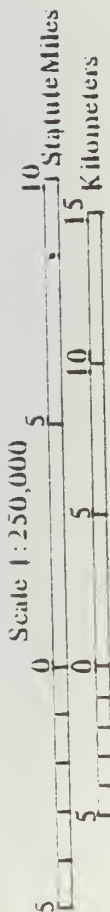
Afton Canyon Allotment - Range condition is fair.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. The Granite/Providences Wild Burro Area range condition is fair.

8. Recreation. The Planning Unit contains two excellent opportunities for rock and mineral collecting. About fifty miles of Interstate Highway 40 is eligible for designation as a State scenic route.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Sand and gravel are mined intermittently along Interstate 40 in the central Bristols and east of Ludlow. Manganese and barite were mined prior to 1960 from at least four mines in the southern Cady Mountains. Identified resources of strontium (as celestite) are found in the southern Cadys. The Glassy Rock Perlite Mine (with large reserves), in the California Mine area, has produced about five tons for experimental purposes. Nine perlite occurrences are found along I-40 trending NW toward Crucero. Also reported in the Bristol Mountains are six copper occurrences, one gold, one silver, one iron, and one barite occurrence near Sands, with 10 unpatented claims on it. The west part of the area was classified by the U.S. Geologic Survey as prospectively valuable for oil and gas, and sodium and potassium. There are about 14 unpatented mining claims reported in this Planning Unit.





**63**

PLANNING UNIT

CLASS C



CLASS I



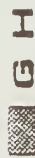
CLASS M



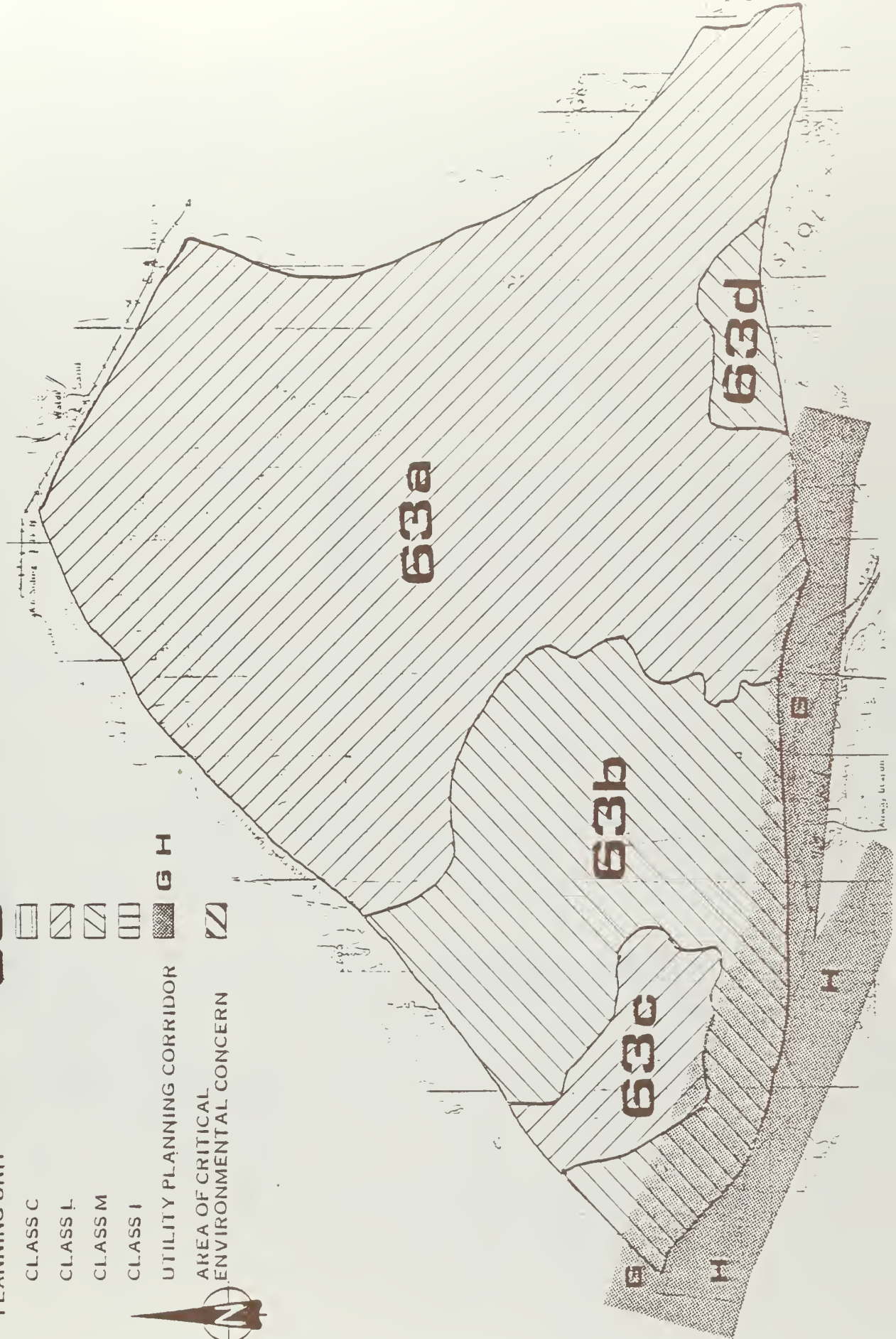
CLASS I



UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR



AREA OF CRITICAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN







## PLANNING UNIT #64

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife while permitting , mineral development and recreational access. (64a, Map 74)

b) This area is recommended as Class M to provide access for mineral exploration and development and recreation. (64b, Map 74)

c) This small section is recommended as Class M because of current and potential mining activities. (64c, Map 74)

#### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. A small section of the Habitat Management Plan for the Old Dad Mountains is in this planning unit. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values in the Old Dad Mountains, especially the desert bighorn sheep. The plan will be completed within 5 years. Long-term management will require protection of water sources. (W32, Map 75) There are no special wildlife management plans.

4. Grazing Allotments. Ludlow Allotment. This proposed allotment may be leased as an ephemeral allotment with a slight boundary change due to wildlife concerns. See Appendix XIII for more information. (59, Map 75)

Granite Mountains Extension. This was eliminated because of over-riding wildlife resource values.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Granite/Providences Wild Burro Area. The management objective is to remove all feral burros from this area because of overriding wildlife resource values. The removal of burros in this area is discussed in the captured plan portion of the east Mojave Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The HMAP is medium priority and is scheduled for completion by the end of Fiscal Year 1982. (I, Map 75)

6. Utility Corridors. Planning #64 is crossed from east to west by utility corridors "G" and "H". They follow existing routes, and are a part of a regional network designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption. (G, H, Map 74)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

### B. Values Considered

1. Cultural Resources. Numerous scattered areas of known high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are present in the Planning Unit, including remains of both prehistoric and historic activities. There is a relatively low diversity of site types represented, with most of the prehistoric sites being lithic scatters. Many of these lithic scatters are

associated with desert pavement areas or with lava flows. The historic sites represent remains of mining, transportation and habitation activity.

2. Native American. A portion of the Planning Unit is a traditional Chemehuevi salt collection area.

3. Wildlife. The desert tortoise is the only BLM sensitive species in the Planning Unit. Other important species present are the prairie falcon and the golden eagle.

4. Vegetation. A small crucifixion thorn unusual plant assemblage is present.

5. Wilderness. There are three Wilderness Study Areas in Planning Unit #64. WSA #258, the Lava Hills, is ranked #87 out of 137. WSA #258A, South Bristol Mountains, is ranked #117 out of 137. WSA #304A, Amboy Crater, is ranked #50 out of 137.

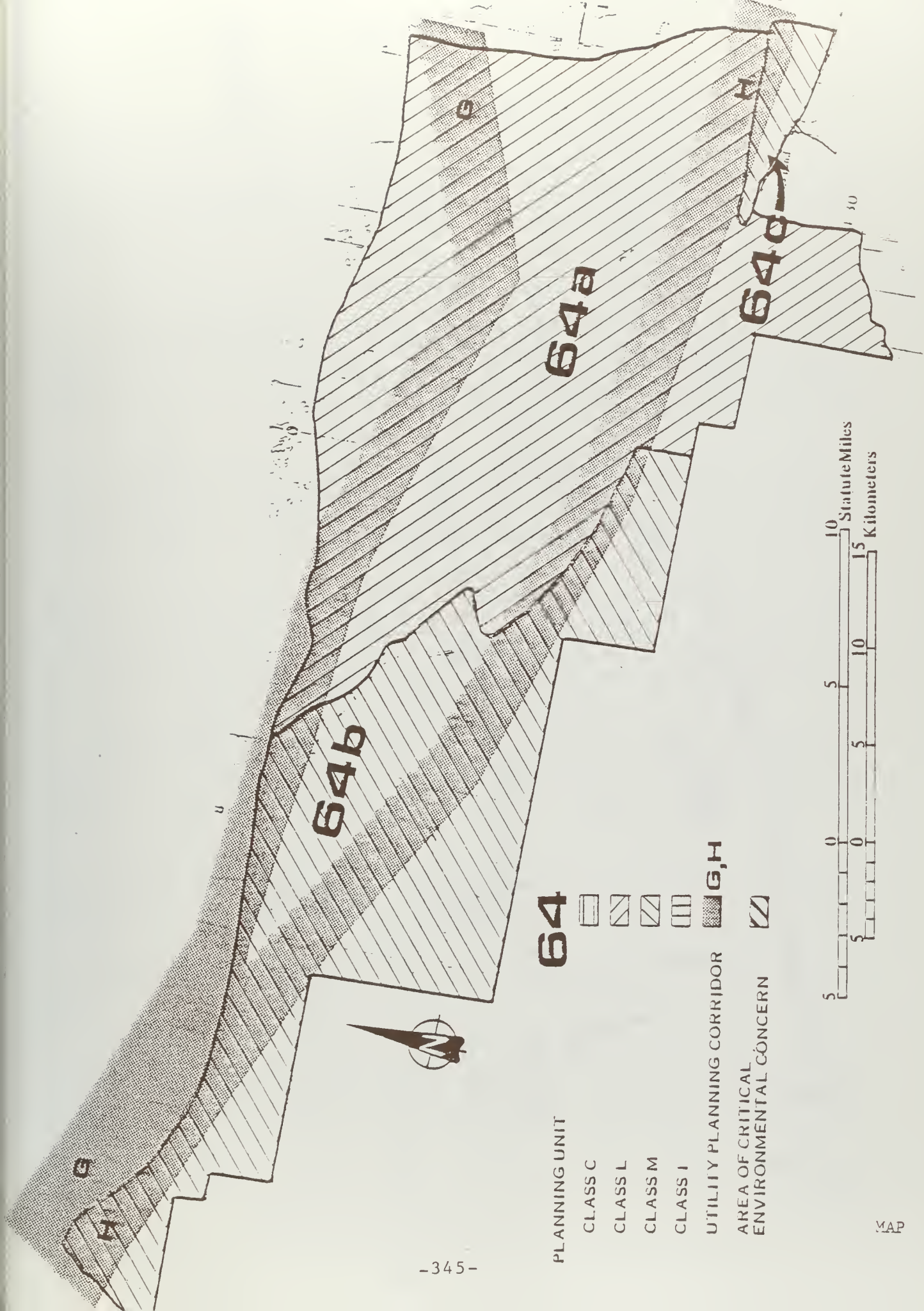
6. Grazing. The Ludlow Allotment range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. The Granite/Providences Wild Burro Area range condition is fair.

8. Recreation. There is an excellent rock and mineral collecting area in the Bristol Mountains. Amboy Crater is rated "excellent" for interpretation and education, and is heavily used for that purpose. Major activities in this Planning Unit include rockhounding, sightseeing, hiking, education and research.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Hectorite and zeolites (used for tertiary sewage treatment) are currently mined near Hector. Sand and Gravel are produced intermittently from sites along Interstate 40 in the central Bristols; volcanic cinders are mined intermittently from the Trojan Mine, near Dish Hill (small production, large reserves): In the Stedman District, at least \$6-7 million in gold were mined from the Old Pete and Bagdad-Chase Mines from 1903 to 1952. Recently gold had been mined from the Bagdad -Chase Mine. Other, smaller mines may have produced, but records are unavailable. In the Bristols, production has come from four copper mines (small or unrecorded production), two iron mines with small production, and two perlite deposits (limited production for experimental purpose both with large reserves). The Snowcap limestone and Hope uranium properties in the Bristols are reported prospects. A gold occurrence near Siberia has 28 unpatented mining claims on it, and an onyx occurrence is reported in the Central Bristols south of Interstate 40. Numerous gold occurrences and copper occurrences are reported in the vicinity of the Stedman (Bagdad-Chase) District. About 462 unpatented mining claims have been recorded with the BLM as of December 1979.



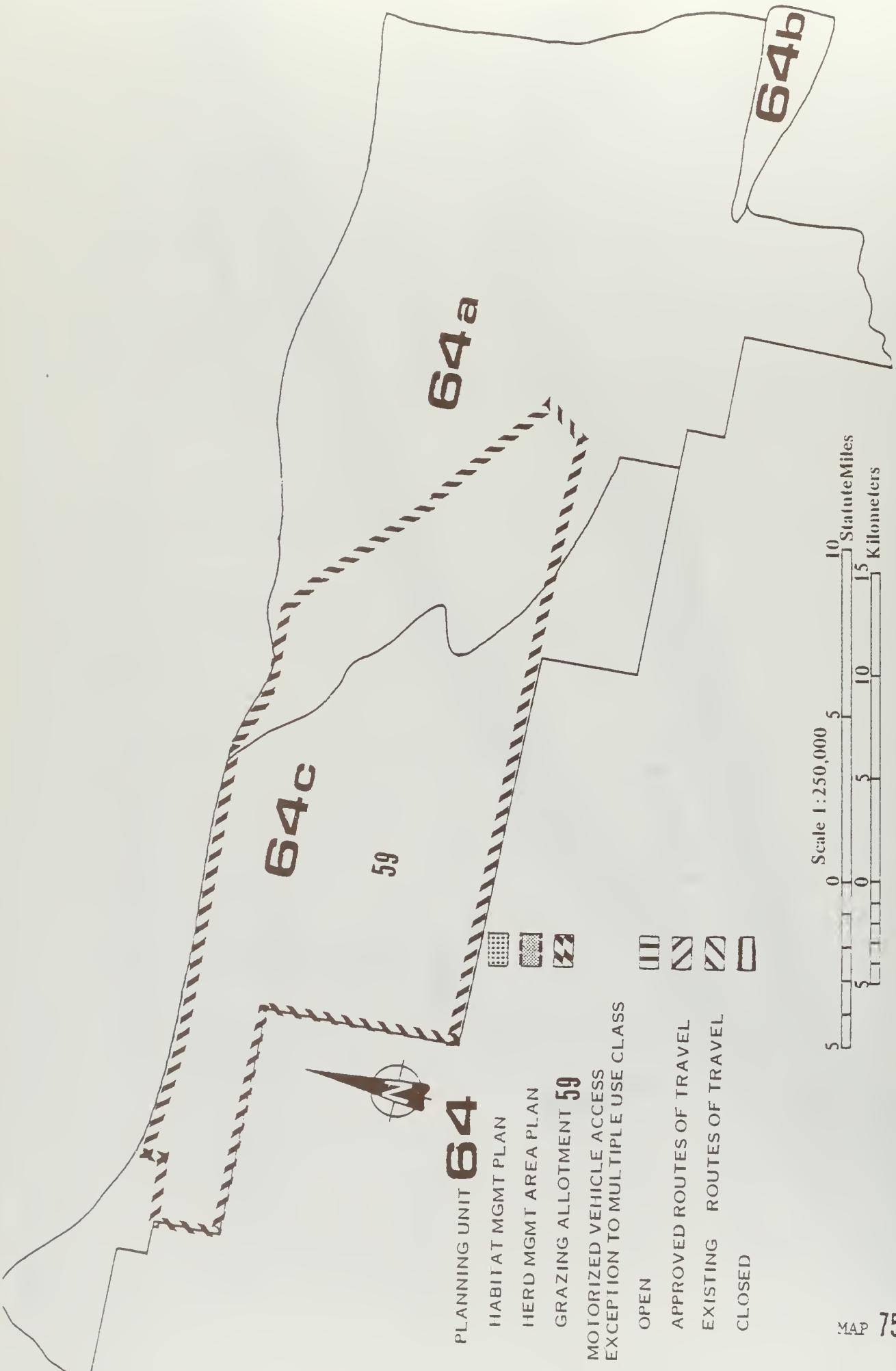


64

PLANNING UNIT

- CLASS C
- CLASS L
- CLASS M
- CLASS I
- UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR
- AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN
- G,H





**PLANNING UNIT 64**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT 59

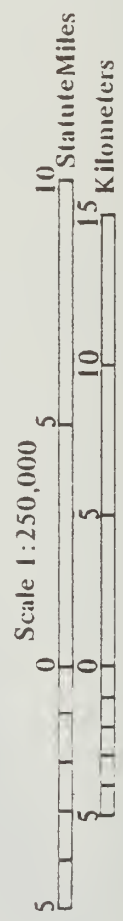
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



## PLANNING UNIT #66

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class. Planning Unit #66 is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, unique plant assemblages, scenic quality, soils, and cultural resources while providing access for recreation, mineral exploration, and management of grazing and burros.

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Cima Dome. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially the Joshua Tree Woodland habitat. Completion of the plan will be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros. Changes in livestock grazing practices and protection of water sources. (W 27, Map 77)

4. Grazing Allotments. Valley View Allotment. This allotment will keep its ephemeral/perennial designation with an authorized use level of 8,485 Animal Unit Months. The season of use is all year. The high priority Allotment Management Plan will consider bighorn sheep and desert tortoise requirements. (50, Map 77)

Kessler Springs Allotment. It will maintain an ephemeral/perennial designation, and will continue the current authorized use level of 8,016 Animal Unit Months. The season of use will be year-long. A high priority Allotment Management Plan (AMP) will have as an objective the maintenance and enhancement of critical desert tortoise habitat. The AMP will consider a grazing deferment in the spring to meet this objective. (46, Map 77)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Cima Dome Herd Management Area. The population of wild burros will be maintained at fifty-five animals. The management of this HMA will be discussed in the East Mojave Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). This HMAP is medium priority and will be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1982. (E, Map 77)

6. Utility Corridors. Utility corridor "BB" forms the northern boundary of Planning Unit #66. It follows an existing route, and is a part of a regional network that is designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption. (BB, Map 77)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Four defined high sensitivity/significance areas are located within this Planning Unit. Recorded sites include an aboriginal village, temporary camps, a depression era homestead, and the Mojave Road. Several springs are partially only sensitive.

2. Native American. No resources of religious importance, or of secular

concern were identified.

3. Wildlife. The desert tortoise is the only BLM sensitive species identified in the Planning Unit. Other important species include the golden eagle, the panamint kangaroo rat, Swainson's hawk, Bendire's thrasher, and the gila woodpecker. The Joshua tree woodland on Cima Dome is of special importance to wildlife.

4. Vegetation. One rare plant species, and a portion of the Cima dome Joshua Tree forest unusual plant assemblage are present.

5. Wilderness. There are seven Wilderness Study Areas. These are:

235A, Shadow Valley, 237, Magee/Atkins, 237A, Deer Spring, 237B, Valley View, 238A, Teutonia Peak, 238B, Cima Dome, and 245, Eightmile Tank; they have the following rankings out of 137 WSA's, respectively; 112, 109, 119, 124, 107, 71, and 98.

6. Grazing. The Valley View Allotment range condition is good.

The Kessler Springs Allotment range condition is good.

7. Wild Horse and Burro. The Cima Dome Herd Management Area is fair condition.

8. Recreation. Excellent opportunities for hiking, nature study, birdwatching, and hunting exist in and around Teutonia Peak. There is one highly rated interpretive site, Cima Dome.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Past production includes gold and silver at Teutonia Peak, and one tungsten occurrence south of Teutonia Peak. The region that includes the Southern Shadow Valley, including lands immediately west and southwest of Teutonia Peak, has been classified as a Potential Geothermal Resource Area by the U.S. Geological Survey.

#### PLANNING UNIT #67

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class. Planning Unit #67 is recommended as Class M to provide for exploration and development. Sensitive wildlife, cultural, and vegetative resources will be protected by mitigating the impacts of permitted uses. (67, Map 76)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #67 contains ACEC #30, Mountain Pass/Dinosaur Trackway. The management objective is to protect historic mining, and paleontological values. See Appendix IV. (30, Map 76)

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Ivanpah Valley desert tortoise crucial habitat. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially desert tortoise populations. Completion of the plan is to be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros, and changes in livestock

grazing practices. (W26, Map 77)

4. Grazing Allotments. Valley View Allotment. This allotment will keep its ephemeral/perennial designation with an authorized use level of 8,485 Animal Unit Months. The season of use is year long. The high priority Allotment Management Plan will consider bighorn sheep and desert tortoise requirements. (50, Map 77)

Kessler Springs Allotment. It will maintain an ephemeral/perennial designation, and will continue the current authorized use level of 8,016 Animal Unit Months. The season of use will be all year long. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will have as an objective, the maintenance and enhancement of critical desert tortoise habitat. The AMP will consider a grazing deferment in the spring to meet this objective. (46, Map 77)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. There are no Herd Management Area Plans.

6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor "BB" forms the northwestern boundary of the Planning Unit. It follows and existing route of travel, and is a part of a regional network designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption. (BB, Map 76)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. The only exception to the multiple-use class guidelines is at ACEC #30, Mountain Pass/Dinosaur Trackway. Although this area is in Class M, existing routes of travel, the designation will be "approved routes of travel" for protection of prehistoric resources. (1, Map 77)

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Two identified high, and two very high sensitivity/significance areas are located within this Planning Unit. Recorded sites include mostly historic mining remains; however, a temporary camp and several large roasting pits are known. The historic component is highly complex, including 17 dugouts, 2 adobes, a mill site, wooden structures, 2 wells, and the Mollusk and other mines. This is one of the best preserved mining complexes in the CDCA.

2. Native American. Planning Unit #67 encompasses a Mohave willow and pantaves (basket grass) collection area.

3. Wildlife. The desert tortoise, and desert bighorn sheep are on the BLM sensitive species list. Other important species include Townsend's Big-eared bat, Panamint chipmunk, rock squirrel, mule deer, golden eagle, and Panamint kangaroo rat.

4. Vegetation. At least one rare plant species, and part of an unusual plant assemblage, the Cima Dome Joshua Tree Woodland, are present.

5. Wilderness. None.

6. Grazing. The Valley View Allotment range condition is good.

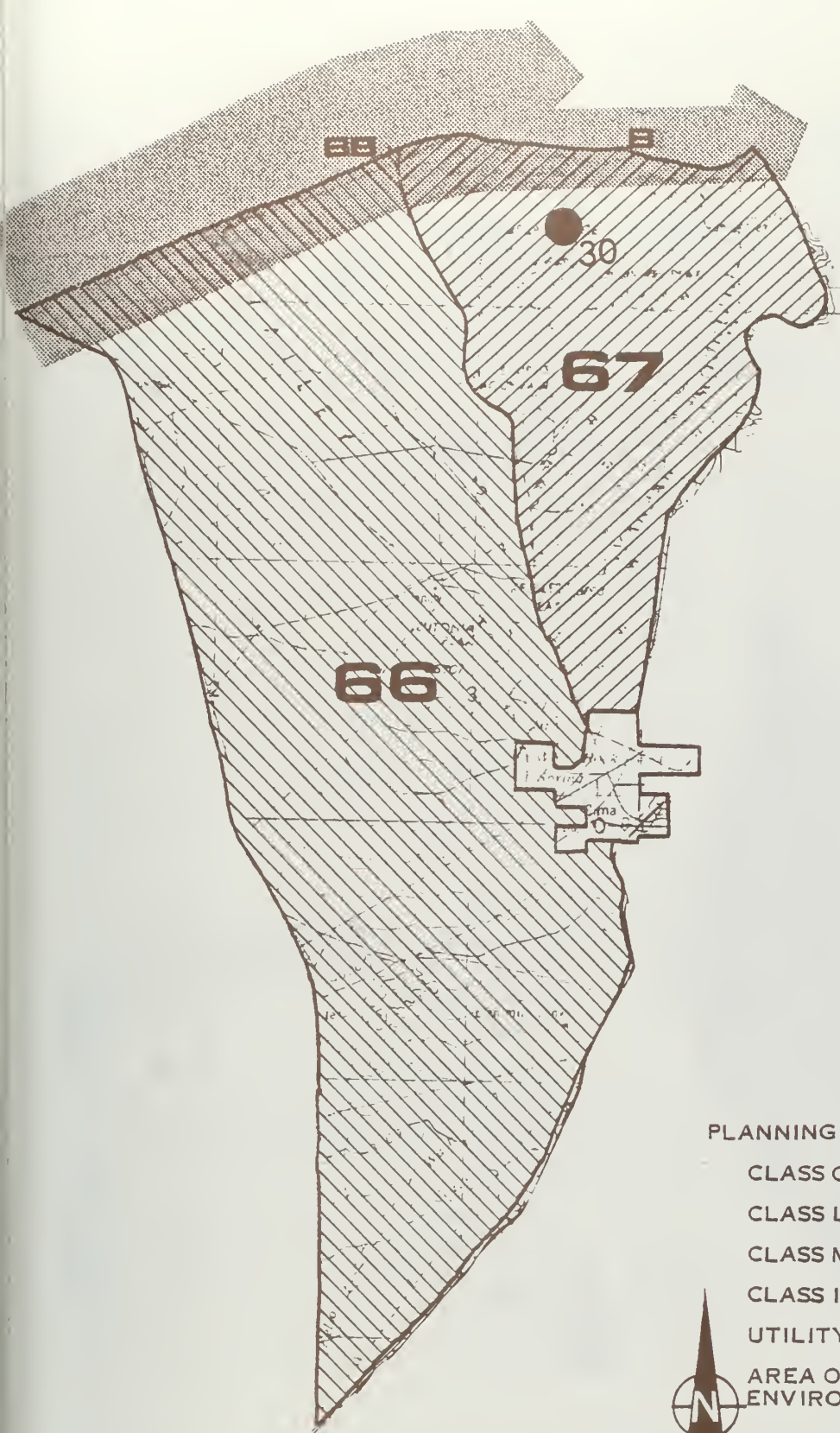


The Kessler Springs Allotment range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. There are excellent hiking, and rockhounding opportunities in the Ivanpah Mountains and Mescal Range. Planning Unit #67 contains one area rated "excellent" for interpretation and education, the Mescal Range. The entire Planning Unit is rated excellent for scenic quality.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. The Mountain Pass rare earth deposit which is mined north of Interstate 15 extends south into this planning unit. This deposit is mineralized with rare earth elements, barite and thorium. Presently gold is produced from the Morning Star Mine. There are numerous mines in the Mescal Range which have produced a variety of minerals including lead, silver, zinc, copper, tin, tungsten, fluorite, magnesite and stone. There are new and existing oil and gas leases on the eastern boundary. There are 100 unpatented claims reported by the BLM in this area as of December, 1979.



PLANNING UNIT

CLASS C

CLASS L

CLASS M

CLASS I

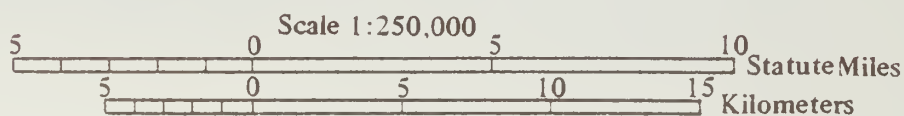
UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

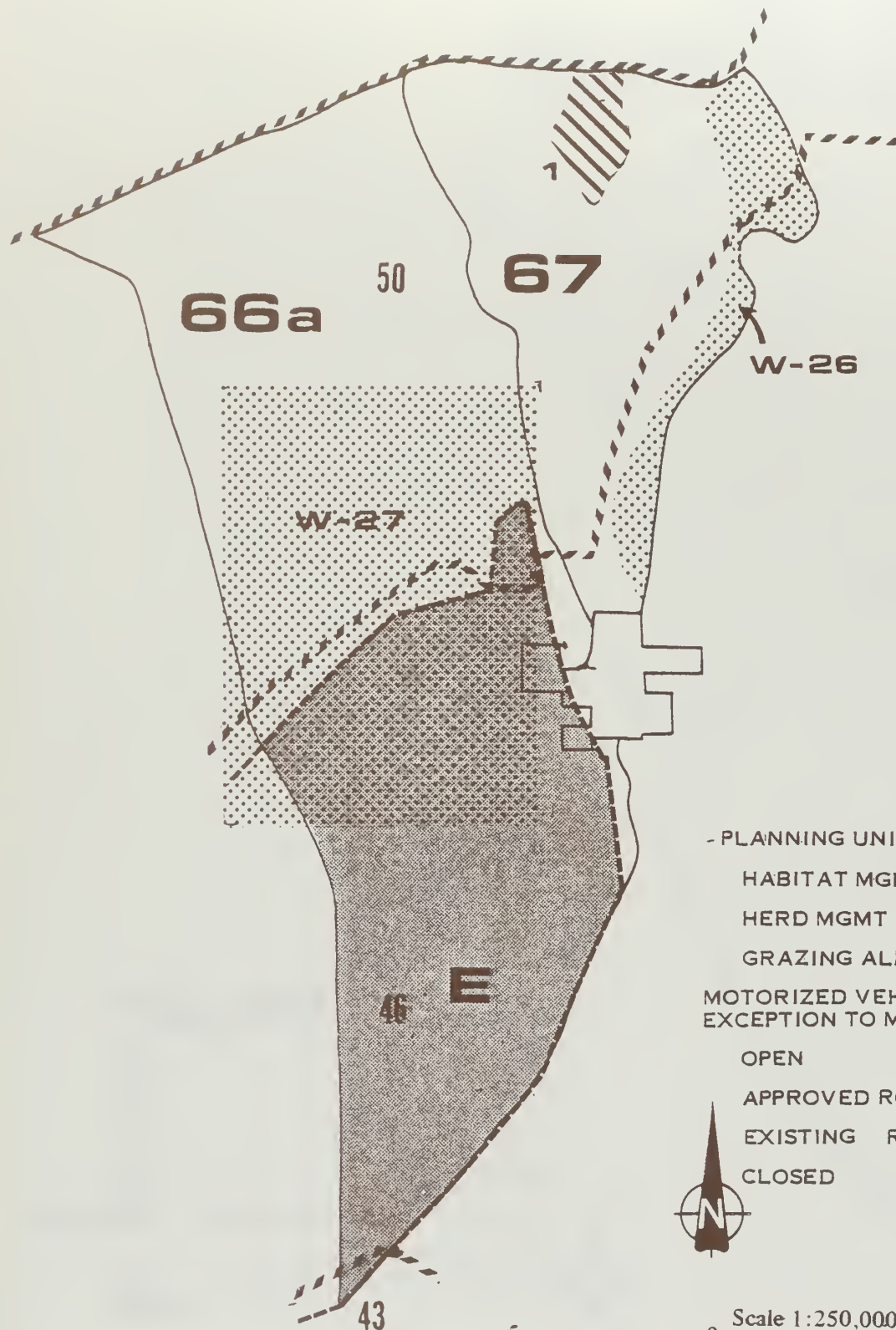
AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

**66,67**

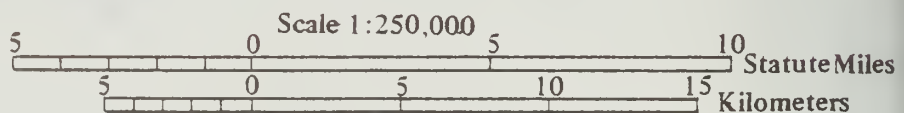


**BB,B**





- PLANNING UNIT **66,67**
- HABITAT MGMT PLAN **W26,27** 
- HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **E** 
- GRAZING ALLOTMENT **43,46,50** 
- MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS
- OPEN 
- APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL **1** 
- EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL 
- CLOSED 





PLANNING UNIT #68

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class. Planning Unit #68 is designated Class L. The area is part of the Ivanpah Valley desert tortoise crucial habitat. Other sensitive resources include five sensitive wildlife species, a unique plant assemblage, cultural resources and Native American concerns. A Class L designation will also permit limited access for mineral exploration, recreation, and grazing management.

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Ivanpah Valley desert tortoise crucial habitat. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially desert tortoise populations. Completion of the plan is to be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros, and changes in livestock grazing practices. (W26, Map 79)

4. Grazing Allotments. Kessler Springs Allotment. It will maintain an ephemeral/perennial designation, and will continue the current authorized use level of 8,016 Animal Unit Months. The season of use will be year long. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will have as an objective the maintenance and enhancement of critical desert tortoise habitat. The AMP will consider a grazing deferment in the spring to meet this objective. (46, Map 79)

Valley View Allotment. This allotment remains designated as ephemeral/perennial. The authorized use is unchanged at 8,485 Animal Unit Months. Season-of-use will continue to be year long. The high priority Allotment Management Plan will consider the bighorn sheep and desert tortoise needs. (50, Map 79)

Crescent Peak Allotment. It will remain an ephemeral/perennial designation type, and the authorized use level will remain at 1,560 Animal Unit Months. The season of use is all year long. The Allotment Management Plan has already been completed by the Las Vegas District. Revision is low priority, and will include provisions for the desert tortoise, and bighorn sheep. (41, Map 79)

The Clark Mountain Allotment will remain designated ephemeral/perennial. There will be no change in the number of AUMs ephemeral/perennial. There will be no change in the number of AUMs authorized. The season of use for the authorized 1,872 AUMs will continue to be year long. The high priority AMP will consider the needs of the bighorn sheep as well as the desert tortoise. (39, Map 79)

Jean Lake Allotment. This Allotment will maintain the range designation of ephemeral/perennial, but will reduce the authorized use level from 312 to 251 Animal Unit Months. The season of use is all year long. A medium priority Allotment Management plan will address monitoring the tortoise areas. (53, Map 79)



5. Wild Horses and Burros. There are no Herd Management Areas in Planning Unit #68.

6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor "BB" forms the northwest border of the planning unit. It follows an existing route, and is a portion of a regional network designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption. (BB, Map 79)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. The only exception to the Multiple Use Class guidelines in Ivanpah Dry Lake. Although it is in Class L, the lake will be closed to motorized vehicles in order to provide for high-quality non-motorized recreation opportunities such as sand sailing, and wind skating

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Two high and one very high sensitivity/significance areas are located within this planning unit. Recorded site types include an aboriginal village, temporary camps, lithic scatters, and many historic sites. The southern shore of Ivanpah Lake has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

2. Native American. No areas of religious importance, or of secular concern have been identified in Planning Unit #68.

3. Wildlife. The only BLM sensitive species present is the desert tortoise, although the golden eagle, and Panamint kangaroo rat are proposed for that status. Other significant species include Swainson's hawk and the prairie falcon.

4. Vegetation. At least one rare plant species, and a portion of an unusual plant assemblage, the Cima Dome Joshua Tree woodland are within Planning Unit #68.

5. Wilderness. None.

6. Grazing. The Valley View Allotment range condition is good.

The Crescent Peak Allotment range condition is good.

The Kessler Springs Allotment range condition is good.

The Jean Lake Allotment range condition is good.

The Clark Mountain Allotment range condition is fair.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. Major activities include sightseeing, picnicking, sand sailing, and camping.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Virtually the entire Ivanpah Valley is classified as prospectively valuable for oil and gas, as well as sodium and potassium by the U.S. Geological Survey conservation division. Exploratory

drilling in the Ivanpah Valley has encountered traces of oil and gas. Geophysical exploration is currently in progress. Only 20 square miles of this planning unit are not under new, existing, and/or expired oil and gas leases. Ivanpah Lake was under exploration for uranium in the mid 1970s.

Molycrop holds a block of about 200 millstie claims north of Nipton Road on which there are evaporation ponds for waste water treatment.

As of December 1979 there were 7 claims entirely located in the area and portions of a block of 62 claims and 84 claims in the Ivanpah Mountains also were located in this area.

#### PLANNING UNIT #69

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

###### 1. Multiple Use Class

a) This area is recommended as Class C status to protect its wilderness characteristics, and wildlife, vegetative, scenic, and cultural resources and Native American concerns. (69a, Map 78)

b & c) These areas are recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, vegetative, cultural, scenic, and Native American resources, while providing access for mineral exploration and development, grazing management, and recreation. (69b, 69c, Map 78)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. This planning unit contains ACEC #31, the New York Mountains. The management objective is to protect wildlife habitat. See Appendix IV. (31, Map 78)

3. Wildlife. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the New York Mountains. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially desert bighorn sheep, white fir forest habitat, riparian areas in the various canyons, and isolated pockets of oak woodland habitat. Completion of the plan will be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros, changes in livestock grazing practices, acquisition of private lands, and protection of water sources. (31, Map 79)

A Wildlife Management Plan will be prepared for the Ivanpah Valley desert tortoise crucial habitat. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially desert tortoise populations. Completion of the plan will be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros, and changes in livestock grazing practices. (W26, Map 79)

4. Grazing Allotments. Kessler Springs Allotment. It will maintain an ephemeral/ perennial designation, and will continue the current authorized use level of 8,016 Animal Unit Months. The season of use will be all year long. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will have as an objective, the maintenance and enhancement of critical Desert Tortoise habitat. The AMP will consider a grazing deferment in the spring to meet this objective. (46, Map 79)

Crescent Peak Allotment. It will remain an ephemeral/ perennial designation type, and the authorized use level will remain at 1,560 Animal Unit Months. The season of use is all year long. The Allotment Management Plan has already been completed by the Las Vegas District. Revision is low priority, and will include provisions for the desert tortoise, and bighorn sheep. (41, Map 79)

Lanfair Valley Allotment. This Allotment will retain its ephemeral/perennial designation, and the authorized use level will remain at 12,168 Animal Unit Months. The season of use is all year long. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will consider bighorn sheep, and desert tortoise critical habitat. (47, Map 79)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. There are no Herd Management Area Plans.

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the Multiple-Use Class guidelines.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resource. About half of this planning unit is covered by cultural resource sensitivity/significance areas. Recorded site types include a village, temporary camps, lithics, rock art, rockshelters, trails, and numerous historic mining and railroad sites. The New York Mountains are extremely sensitive.

2. Native American. The mountain ranges within this planning unit figure prominently in origin tales of the Mohave. Some traditional hunting areas are still used by the Mohave and Chemehuevi for that purpose.

3. Wildlife. Wildlife identified as BLM sensitive include the desert tortoise, and desert bighorn sheep. Other important species include the golden eagle, the Panamint kangaroo rat, Swainson's hawk, prairie falcon, gray vireo, Panamint chipmunk, rock squirrel, and mule deer. In the New York Mountains, the pinyon-juniper woodland, white fir, and oak woodland habitats are particularly important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation. At least three rare plant species are present. There are also three unusual plant assemblages: a small white fir forest, a chaparral enclave, and remnants of the Lanfair Valley desert grassland.

5. Wilderness. There are two Wilderness Study Areas in Planning Unit #69. WSA #265, the New York Mountains, is ranked #37 out of 137. WSA #266, Castle Peaks, is ranked #69 out of 137. See Appendix III for more information.

6. Grazing. The Kessler Spring Allotment range condition is good.

The Crescent Peak Allotment range condition is good.

The Lanfair Valley Allotment range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

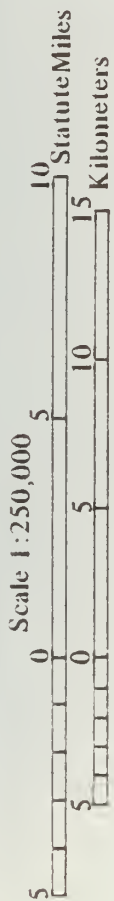
8. Recreation. Excellent opportunities for hiking, backpacking, nature study, birdwatching, and hunting are present throughout the planning unit, but are of especially high quality in the New York Mountains. There are four areas that are rated "excellent" for interpretation and education: the New York Mountains, Midhills, 4th of July Canyon, and Caruthers Canyon. Willow Springs is heavily used for education and research. 80 percent of the planning unit is rated excellent for scenic quality. Current activities include sightseeing, camping, picnicking, nature study, hunting, and education and research.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Presently gold is extracted from the Vanderbilt Mines, sericite from Live Oak Canyon, and exploration is continuing at the Big Hunch molybdenum deposit. There are three past producers of tungsten, one silver, one gold, and three copper. There are three occurrences of uranium - thorium, two fluorite occurrences and two limestone prospects.

In Ivanpah Valley on the northern boundary of the area there are existing oil and gas leases. On the east and west sides of Pinto Mountain and west of the Grotto Hills there are existing leases. Within the planning unit are 115 unpatented claims which were reported by BLM as of December 1979, and 48 patented claims.







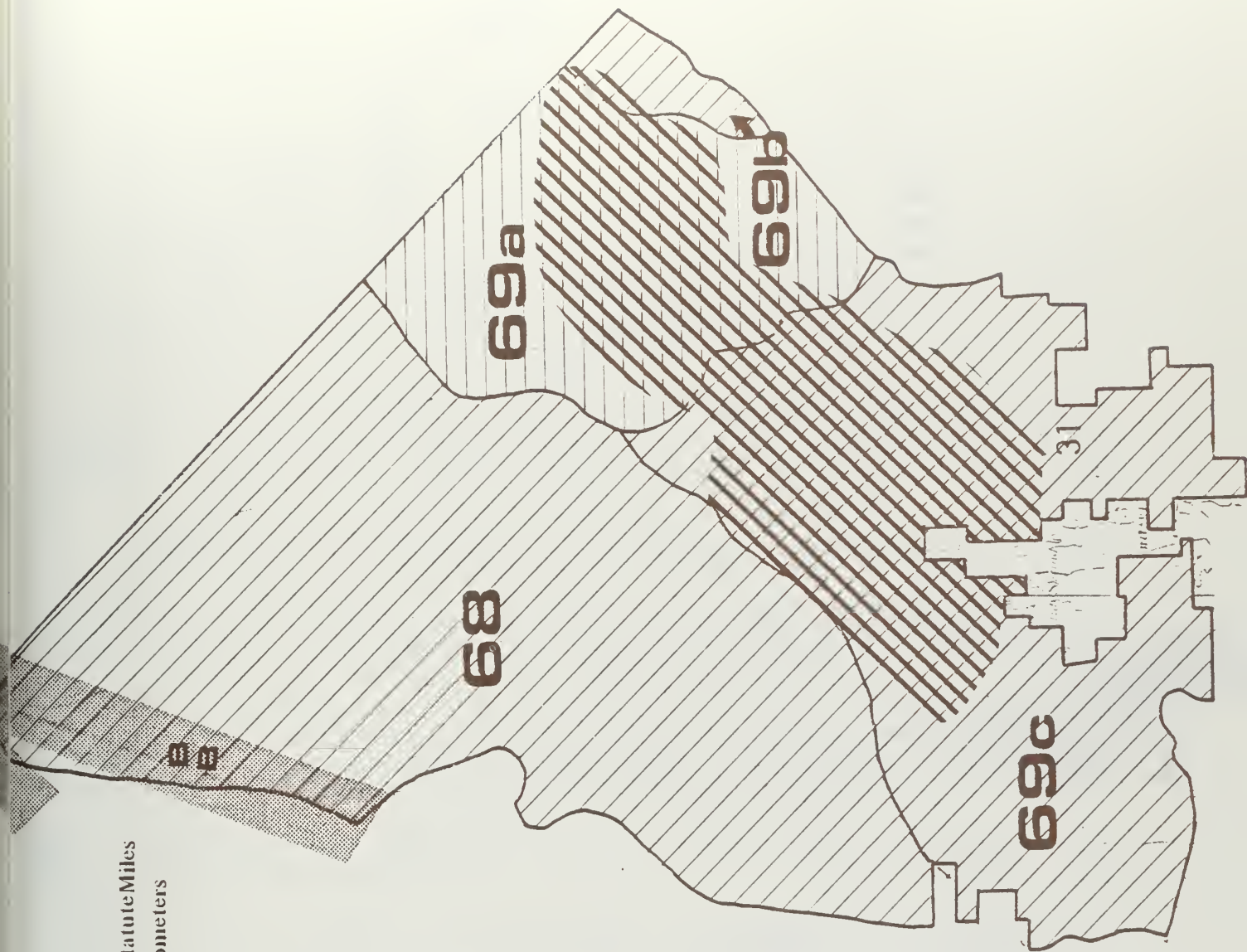
**68,69**

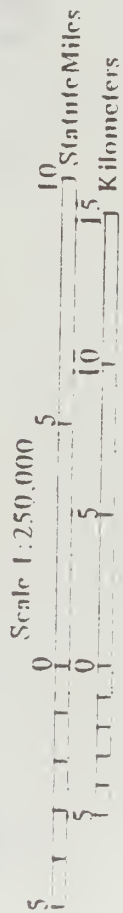
PLANNING UNIT

- CLASS C
- CLASS L
- CLASS M
- CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN





# **68, 69**

PLANNING UNIT

HABITAT MGMT PLAN W-26, 31

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN F

GRAZING ALLOTMENT 39, 41, 46, 47, 53

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



MAP 79



## PLANNING UNIT #70

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a. This portion of Planning Unit 70 is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, vegetative and cultural resources, and Native American concerns. This Multiple Use Class will provide opportunity for mineral exploration and development and for grazing and burro management. (70a, Map 80)

b) This area is recommended as Class C due to its outstanding wilderness rating and content of sensitive natural and cultural resources, including wildlife, unusual plant assemblages, sensitive plant species, areas of high cultural resource sensitivity and high Native American concerns. (70b, Map 80)

c) This small area is recommended for Class L status to provide limited access to existing mines. (70c, Map 80)

d) This area is recommended as Class L to protect natural and cultural resources while providing for mineral exploration and development. (70d, Map 80)

e) This area is designated Class L to protect wildlife vegetative, scenic, cultural and Native American resources while providing access for mineral exploration, recreation, and grazing management. (70e Map 80)

f) This area is designated as Class M to provide for continuation of existing mining activities. (70f, Map 80)

g) This area is recommended as Class C to protect wilderness characteristics, sensitive wildlife and plant species, unusual plant assemblages, high scenic quality, and several areas of cultural resources sensitivity. (70g, Map 80)

h) This area is designated Class L to provide limited access for mineral exploration and development. (70h, Map 80)

#### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Fenner/Chemehuevi Valley. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially desert tortoise. Completion of the plan is to be within five years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros, changes in livestock grazing practices, and acquisition of private lands. (W 35, Map 80)

4. Grazing Allotments. Kessler Springs Allotment. It will maintain an ephemeral/perennial designation, and will continue the current authorized use level of 8,016 Animal Unit Months. The season of use will be all year long. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will have as an objective, the maintenance and enhancement of critical desert tortoise habitat. The AMP will



consider a grazing deferment in the spring to meet this objective. (46, Map 81)

Granite Mountains Allotment. The allotment will keep its ephemeral/perennial designation, but the authorized level of use will be reduced from 4,716 to 4,003 Animal Unit Months, because of the exclusion of the Kelso Dunes. A medium priority Allotment Management Plan will discuss grazing on the dunes, and the requirements of desert bighorn sheep. (43, Map 81)

Gold Valley Allotment. This Allotment will retain its ephemeral/perennial designation, but will increase the authorized use level from 1,200 to 1,269 Animal Unit Months. The Allotment Management Plan is completed, and revisions are a low priority. (44, Map 81)

Colton Hills Allotment. This will retain its ephemeral/perennial designation and current authorized use level of 2,880 Animal Unit Months. The season of use is a year long. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will be designed with consideration for bighorn sheep, and very crucial desert tortoise habitat. (40, Map 81)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Granite/Providences Wild Burro Area. The management objective is to remove all feral burros from this area due to over-riding wildlife concerns. (I, Map 81)

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Approximately 50 percent of this planning unit is covered by recognized high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance areas. An extremely high number of sites have been recorded in this area, representing the full range of site types. Sites are located throughout the planning unit, including villages, temporary camps, rock-shelters, lithic scatters, rock art, quarries, pottery, milling, and numerous historic remains. The Providence/Mid Hills region is one of the most important cultural areas in the desert.

2. Native American. The mountain ranges in this planning unit figure prominently in the origin stories of the Mohave. Some traditional hunting areas are still used by the Mohave and Chemehuevi.

3. Wildlife. The only animals present that are on the BLM sensitive species list are the desert tortoise, and the desert bighorn sheep, although the golden eagle, and the Panamint kangaroo rat are eligible for that status. Other significant species include the gila monster, Swainson's hawk, prairie falcon, gray vireo, big brown bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, Panamint chipmunk, rock squirrel, and the mule deer.

4. Vegetation. There are at least four sensitive plant species present in Planning Unit 70, and a very sensitive basic rispicole assemblage.

5. Wilderness. There are three Wilderness Study Areas are within Planning Unit 70.

WSA #262, South Providence Mountains, ranked #48 out of 137.

WSA #263, Providence Mountains, ranked #9 out of 137,

WSA #264, Midhills, ranked 93 out of 137.

6. Grazing.

The Kessler Springs Allotment range condition is good.

The Granite Mountains Allotment range condition is good.

The Gold Valley Allotment range condition is good.

The Crafton Hills Allotment range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. The Granite/Providences Wild Burro Area range condition is fair.

8. Recreation. Excellent opportunities for natural value-oriented activities abound in Planning Unit 70. The Providence Mountains - Midhills area is particularly good for hiking and backpacking, nature study, and birdwatching. The area also offers excellent rock and mineral collecting, and hunting opportunities. There are three highly rated interpretive and educational sites: Hole-in-the-Wall, Wild Horse Mesa, and the Providence Mountains. The Providence Mountains, especially the Foshay Pass area, are heavily used for education and research. Fifty-five percent of the Planning Unit is rated excellent for scenic quality. Current activities include sightseeing, hiking, rock climbing, picnicking, nature study, birdwatching, and hunting.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. In all, there are 49 metallic, and non-metallic mines, prospects, and/or known occurrences, and at least 186 unpatented, and 16 patented claims throughout the Providence Mountains. There has been production of copper, iron, and magnesite (one mine each) in the northern Providence Mountains; lead, silver, lead-silver, barite (one mine each), and a limestone occurrence in the central Providence Mountains; and tungsten, feldspar (one mine each), and two sand and gravel deposits in the southern Providence Mountains.

#### PLANNING UNIT #71

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class. Planning Unit #71 is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, cultural resources, and scenic quality, while providing access for mineral exploration and development, recreation and management of burros and grazing. (71, Map 80)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #71 contains ACEC #32, Camp Rock Springs. The management objective is to protect prehistoric and historic values. See Appendix IV. (32, Map 80)

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Fenner/Chemehuevi Valley. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially desert tortoise. Completion of the plan is to be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros, changes in livestock grazing practices, and acquisition of private lands. (W35, Map 80)

4. Grazing Allotments. Colton Hills Allotment. This will retain its ephemeral/perennial designation, and current authorized use level of 2,880 Animal Unit Months. The season of use is all year long. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will be designed with consideration for bighorn sheep, and desert tortoise. (40, Map 81)

Lanfair Valley Allotment. This allotment will retain its ephemeral/perennial designation, and the authorized use level will remain at 12,168 Animal Unit Months. The season of use is all year long. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will consider bighorn sheep and desert tortoise. (47, Map 81)

Gold Valley Allotment. This allotment will retain its ephemeral/perennial designation, but will increase the authorized use level from 1,200 to 1,269 Animal Unit Months. The Allotment Management Plan is completed, and revisions are a low priority. (44, Map 81)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Woods/Hackberry Herd Management Area (HMA). Feral burros will be totally removed from the HMA because of wildlife concerns. The population of wild horses will be maintained at its present level of twelve animals. The removal and management of the burros and horses in this HMA will be discussed in the East Mojave Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The HMAP is medium priority, and will be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1981. (V, Map 81)

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Much of this planning unit is covered by known high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance areas. Numerous sites have been recorded, including villages, temporary camps, lithic scatters, milling stations, rock art, quarries, rockshelters, pottery loci, and historic sites. Historic remains include Rock Spring and the Mojave Road. Well over 10 sites have been recorded, and many more surely exist. The Hackberry, Woods, and Providence Mountains are extremely significant with respect to cultural remains.

2. Native American. No sites or areas of religious importance, or of secular concern have been identified.

3. Wildlife. The desert tortoise, and desert bighorn sheep are identified as BLM sensitive species. Other important species include the golden eagle, Panamint kangaroo rat, prairie falcon, Panamint chipmunk, and mule deer. The

Fenner-Chemehuevi desert tortoise habitat is particularly important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation. At least four sensitive plant species, and a sensitive rock-dwelling assemblage are present.

5. Wilderness. There are two Wilderness Study Areas in Planning Unit #71. WSA #270, Table Mountain, is ranked #48 out of 137. WSA #271, Woods Mountain is ranked #58 out of 137.

6. Grazing.

The Colton Hills Allotment range condition is good.

The Lanfair Valley Allotment range condition is good.

The Round Valley Allotment range condition is good.

The Gold Valley Allotment range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. Woods/Hackberry Herd Management Area

8. Recreation. Excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities are available in the Woods Mountains and Table Mountain area, and excellent opportunities for rock and mineral collecting exist in the Hackberry Mountains, Fenner Valley, and Vontrigger Hills. There are three highly rated interpretive and educational sites; Government Hole, Rock Spring, and Woods Wash. Major activities include camping, sightseeing, vehicle touring, rockhounding, hunting and nature study.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Most of the metallic mines in the area were worked for gold. A clay mine located on the southwestern side of Hackberry Mountain is the only past producer in the area. Occurrences and/or quarries of chalcedony, opal, dimension stone, and clay occur along the eastern side of Hackberry Mountain. Areas of Quaternary alluvium are considered to be potentially valuable for sand and gravel. Existing and expired oil and gas lease areas are on private lands along the northern boundary of the planning Unit. There are a total of 33 unpatented claims reported by the BLM, there are 14 patented claims.

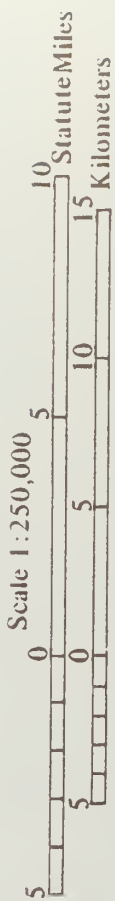
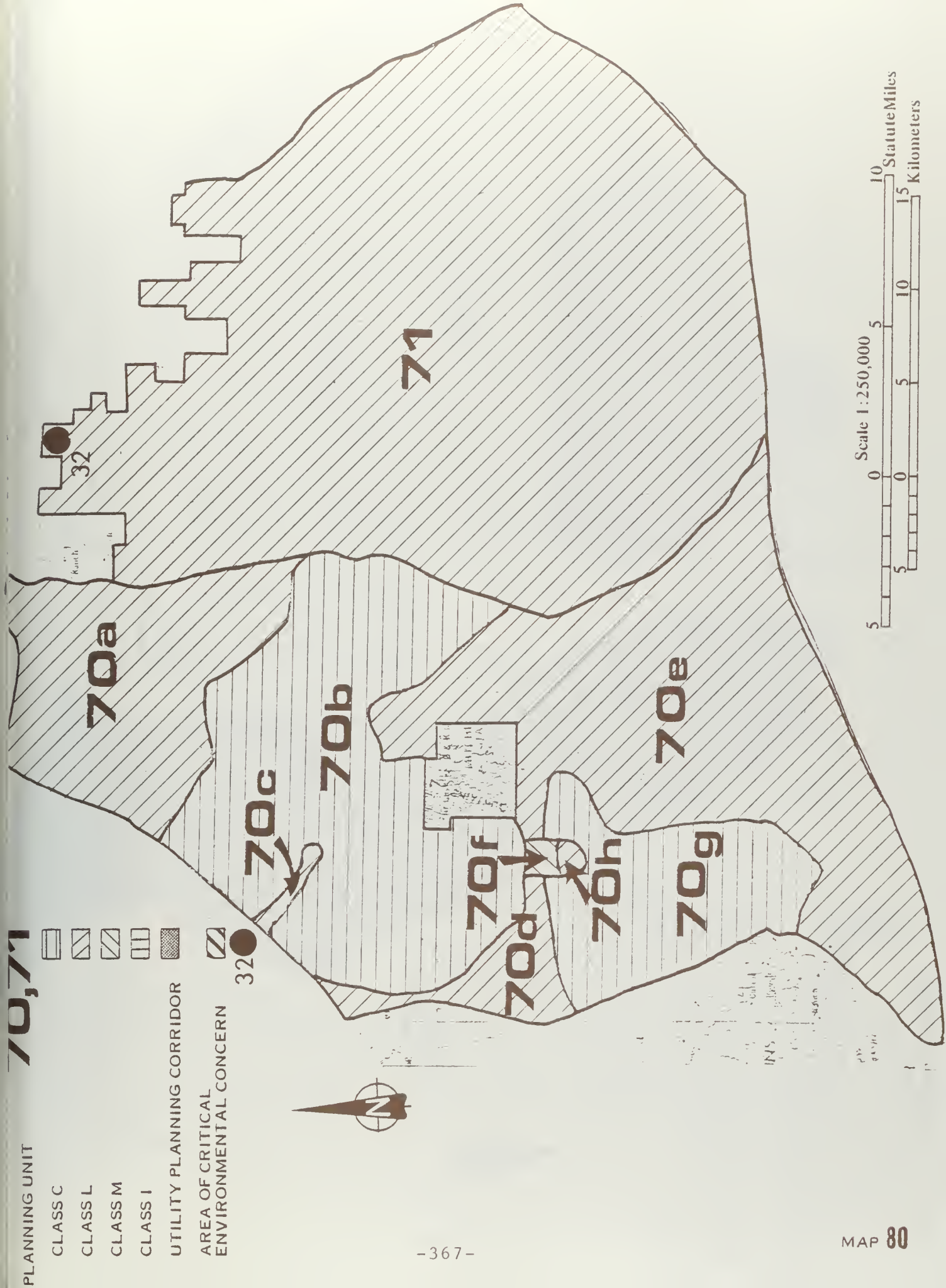




- CLASS C
- CLASS L
- CLASS M
- CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN





# PLANNING UNIT 70, 71

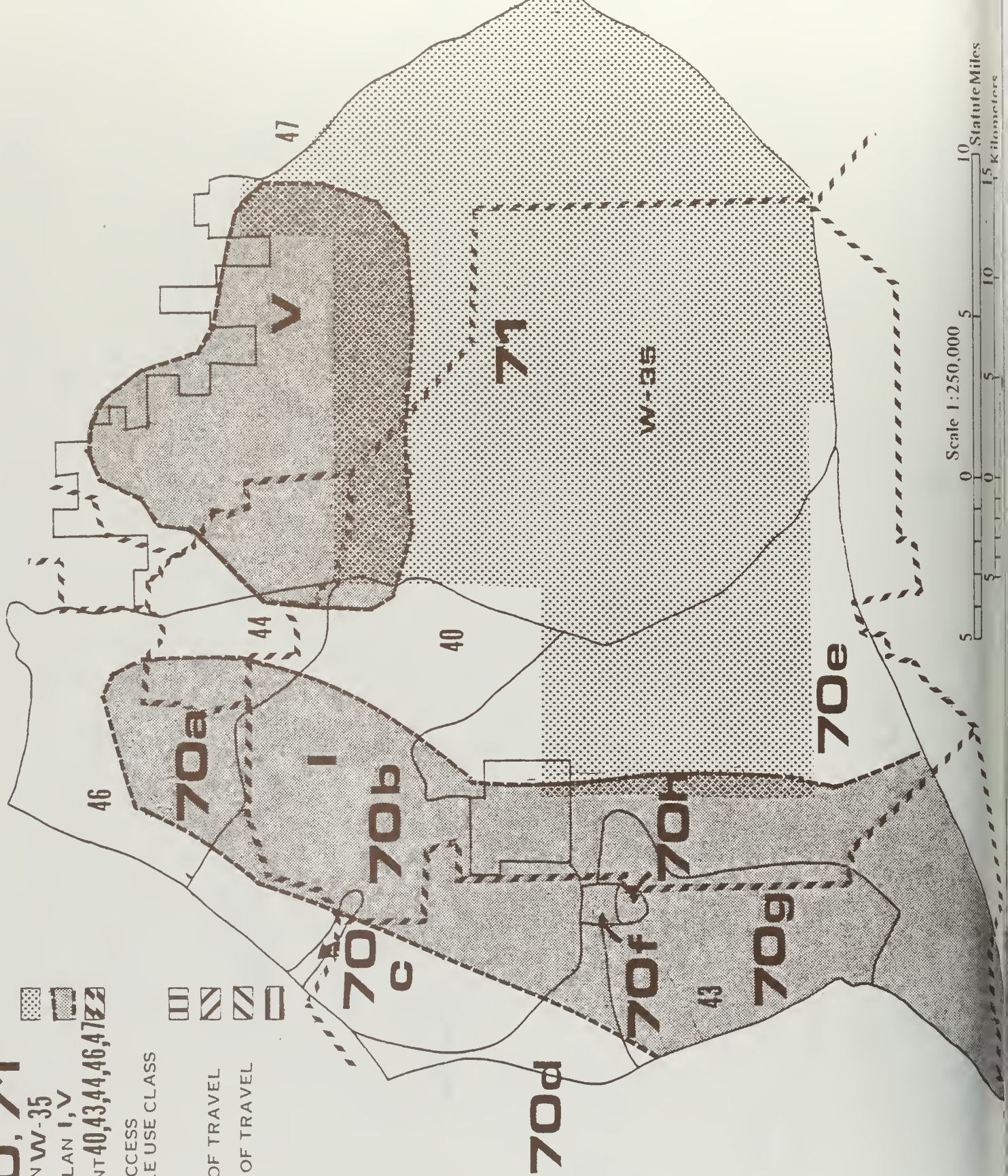
HABITAT MGMT PLAN W-35

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN I, V

GRAZING ALLOTMENT 40, 43, 44, 46, 47

OTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

- OPEN
- APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL
- EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL
- CLOSED



MAP 81

## PLANNING UNIT #72

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, unique plant assemblages, sensitive soils, scenic quality, cultural resources, and Native American concerns. This classification also provides for vehicle access for recreation, mineral exploration and development, and grazing management. (72a, Map 82)

b) This area is recommended as Class C to protect its wilderness qualities and natural and cultural resources. (72b, Map 82)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #72 contains ACEC #33, Fort Piute. The management objective will be to protect wildlife habitat, prehistoric and historic values, outstanding scenic quality, and a riparian area. See Appendix IV. (33, Map 82).

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Fenner and Chemehuevi Valleys. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially the desert tortoise. Completion of the plan is to be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros, changes in livestock grazing practices and acquisition of private lands. (W35, Map 82)

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Fort Piute. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially the riparian area and surrounding watershed. Completion of the plan will be within 2 years. (33, Map 83)

4. Grazing Allotments. The Lanfair Valley Allotment will retain its ephemeral/perennial designation, and the authorized use level will remain at 12,168 Animal Unit Months. The season of use is all year long. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will consider bighorn sheep, and very critical Desert Tortoise habitat. (47, Map 83)

The Piute Valley allotment will retain its ephemeral designation, and is subject to 200 pounds per acre air dry annual vegetation for turnout. (48, Map 83)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. There are no Herd Management Areas Plans.

6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor "E" passes through the Planning Unit roughly parallel to the eastern boundary. It is along an existing route, and is a portion of a regional network designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption. (E, Map 82)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED



1. Cultural Resources. Numerous highly significant resources are located in this planning unit (both high and very high sensitivity/significance areas). The entire range of site types is represented here, including a village, temporary camps, rockshelters, milling stations, rock alignments, lithic scatters, rock art, trails, and numerous historic sites. Fort Piute and the Mojave Road are both located in this region. Specific areas of sensitivity include the Piute Range, Castle Mountains, and the Vontrigger Hills. This is a very important area.

2. Native American. A portion of Planning Unit #72 is considered sacred by the Mohave. This area is still used by some Mohaves for ceremonally-associated collecting purposes. Springs are still used by Colorado River area traditionalists.

3. Wildlife. BLM sensitive species present in Planning Unit #72 include the desert tortoise, and desert bighorn sheep. Other important species are the golden eagle, Swainson's hawk, and prairie falcon. The Fenner-Chemehuevi Desert Tortoise Habitat, and the Fort Piute area are very important to wildlife.

4. Vegetation. Planning Unit #72 contains three unusual plant assemblages: the Piute Springs riparian area, the Piute Wash Smoke Tree Asemblage, and the Homer Mountain Ocotillo Assemblage.

5. Wilderness. There are two Wilderness Study Areas in Planning Unit #72. WSA #267, Fort Piute, is rated #34 out of 137. WSA #272, Signal Hill, is rated #102 out of 137. See Appendix III.

6. Grazing. The Lanfair Valley Allotment range condition is good. The Piute Valley Allotment range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. There are excellent day hiking opportunities in the Piute Mountains near Piute Srings. The Vontrigger Hills contain an excellent rock and mineral colelcting area. Two interpretive and educational sites with ratings of "excellent". Piute Gorge, and Fort Piute. Current activities include camping, sightseeing, hunting, target shooting, and rockhounding.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Presently kaolinite clay is produced from the southwest end of the Castle Mountains. The Hart gold mines, adjacent to the clay deposits have produced in the past. Perlite has been produced from the northeast end of the Castle Mountains.

In the Vontrigger Hills, the California Mine has produced 450,000 pounds of copper, 4,000 ounces of silver and 350 ounces of gold. There is a rock quarry and three small part producers of gold in the Vontrigger Hills. At the Tungsten Flat-Signal Peak area there has been small production of silver, copper, gold and vanadium, and prospecting for tungsten. On the north side of Homer Mountain there are two silver-copper-vanadium occurrences. There is one copper prospect in the granitic outcrop in Northwest Piute Valley. Potentially suitable sand and gravel is located in Piute Wash near U.S. 95. There were showings of oil in an exploratory well drilled in the southeast

corner of the area. The area is within the overthrust belt, and has been classified as being prospectively valuable for oil and gas by the U.S. Geologic Survey. There are a total of 92 unpatented and 3 patented claims reported by the BLM.

### PLANNING UNIT #73

#### A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class. Planning Unit #73 is recommended as Class L to protect cultural resources, wildlife and Native American values, while providing access for mineral exploration and development. (73, Map 82)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #73 contains ACEC #34, the Dead Mountains. The management objective will be to protect Native American values. See Appendix IV. (34, Map 82)

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Fenner and Chemehuevi Valleys. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially the desert tortoise. Completion of the plan is to be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros, changes in livestock grazing practices and acquisition of private lands. (W35, Map 83)

4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. All feral burros will be completely removed from the Dead Mountains Wild Burro Area. The bulk of the herd concentration area is on the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation, and the Indians want no burros on their lands. The removal of these burros, will be discussed in the capture plan portion of the East Mojave Herd management Area Plan. (H, Map 83)

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

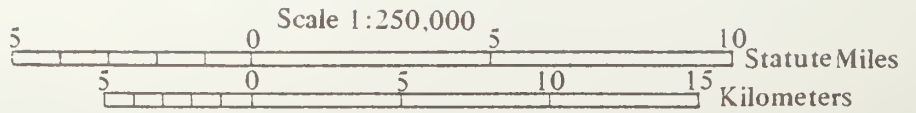
1. Cultural Values. Much of this planning unit is covered by high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance areas. Recorded site types include a village, rock art, milling stations, rockshelters, trails, and historic remains. Camp Ibis, a World War II training facility, is also located in this planning unit, as is a portion of the Mojave Road. The entire planning unit is highly sensitive, especially the Dead Mountains.

2. Native American. In Planning Unit #73, there is a traditional hunting area that is still used by the Mohave Chemehuevi.

3. Wildlife. The desert tortoise and the desert bighorn sheep are identified as BLM sensitive species. The Fenner-Chemhuevoi desert tortoise habitat is of particular importance to wildlife.

4. Vegetation. No special vegetation values were identified.
5. Wilderness. Wilderness Study Area #276, the Dead Mountains, is within Planning Unit #73. It is ranked #111 out of 137.
6. Grazing. None.
7. Wild Horses and Burros. The Dead Mountains wild burro area range condition is fair. About 50 wild burros are present.
8. Recreation. No significant recreation use, or opportunities were identified in Planning Unit #73.
9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Active Bureau of Reclamation rip-rap quarries exist in the east-central Dead Mountains. Past productions included copper, manganese, gold, and sand and gravel in the Dead Mountains. There is a bentonite clay prospect in the Dead Mountains. Piute Valley has been classified as prospectively valuable for oil and gas by the U.S. Geological Survey. There are a total of 19 unpatented claims in Planning Unit #73 reported by the BLM as of December 1979.





PLANNING UNIT

CLASS C

CLASS L

CLASS M

CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR E

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

**72,73**



33

34



**72b**

E

33

**72a**

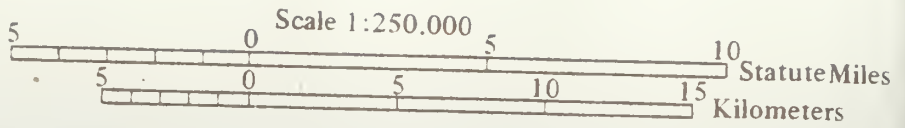
E

34

**73**

MAP 82





# PLANNING UNIT **72,73**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **33, w-35.**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **H**

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **41,47,48.**

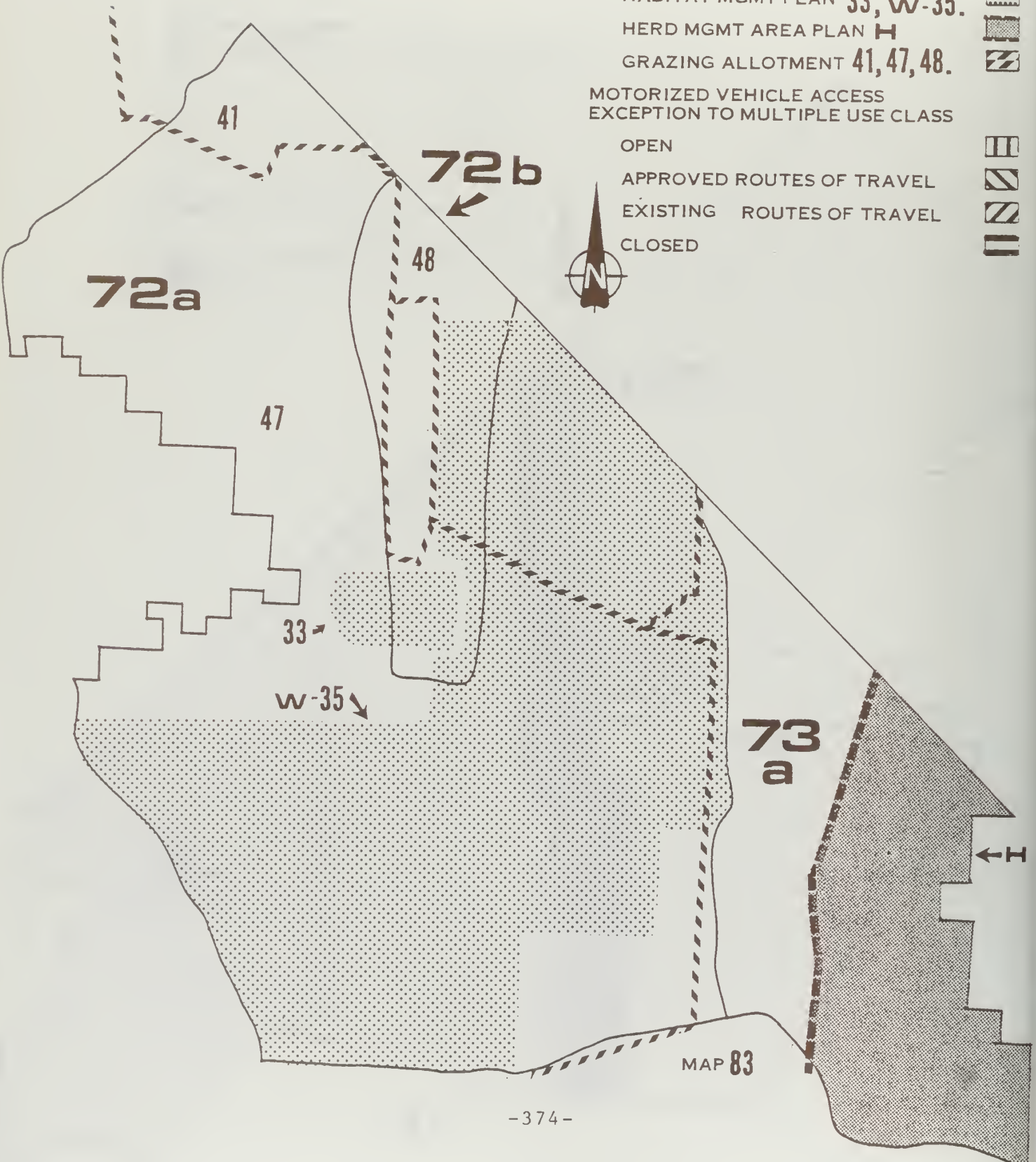
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



PLANNING UNIT #74

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class.

a) The northeastern corner of Planning Unit #74 is recommended as Class M to protect sensitive wildlife species is part of the Fenner-Chemehuevi Valley Desert Tortoise Crucial Habitat. This classification will permit access for mineral exploration and development, recreation, and grazing management. (74a, Map 84)

b) The major portion of Planning Unit #74 is recommended as Class L to protect primitive characteristics, sensitive wildlife species, sensitive soils, high scenic quality, sensitive cultural resources, and Native American concerns. This designation also provides vehicle access for recreation and mineral exploration and development. (74b, Map 84)

c) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for mineral exploration and development while mitigating impacts of permitted uses on desert resources. (74c, Map 84)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #74 contains a portion of ACEC #48, the Marble Mountain Fossil Site. The management objective will be to protect paleontological values. (48, Map 84)

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be purposed for Fenner and Chemehuevi Valleys. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially the desert tortoise. Completion of the plan is to be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros, changes in livestock grazing practices and acquisition of private lands. (W35, Map 85)

4. Grazing Allotments. Granite Mountains Allotment. The allotment will keep its ephemeral/perennial designation, but the authorized level of use will be reduced from 4,716 to 4,003 Animal Unit Months, because of the exclusion of the Kelso Dunes. A medium priority Allotment Management Plan will discuss grazing on the dunes, and the requirements of desert bighorn sheep. (43, Map 85).

Colton Hills Allotment. This will retain its ephemeral/perennial designation and current authorized use level of 2,880 Animal Unit Months. The season of use is year long. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will be designed with consideration for bighorn sheep, and very crucial desert tortoise habitat. (40, Map 85).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. The planning unit contains a portion of the Granite/Providence Herd Management Area (HMA). Because of wildlife concerns the burros will be totally removed from this HMA. The removal of these burros will be discussed in the capture plan portion of the East Mojave Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The HMAP is medium priority and will be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1981. (I, Map 85)

6. Utility Corridors. Planning Unit #74 is crossed by Utility Corridors "G" and "H". They follow existing routes, and are a portion of a regional network designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption. (G, H, Map 84)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Six areas of recognized high and one area of very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are located within this Planning Unit. Recorded site types include historic mining remains, lithic scatters and temporary camps. Most of these sites are located in the Clipper Mountains, although a few sites have been recorded in the Marble Mountains.

2. Native American. No areas of religious importance, or of secular concern have been identified.

3. Wildlife. The desert tortoise, and the desert bighorn sheep are on the BLM sensitive species list. Other important species include the golden eagle, and the prairie falcon.

4. Vegetation. No special vegetation values were identified.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #74 contains two Wilderness Study Areas. WSA #259, the Marble Mountains is ranked #135 out of 137. WSA #260, the Clipper Mountains, is ranked #94 out of 137. See Appendix III.

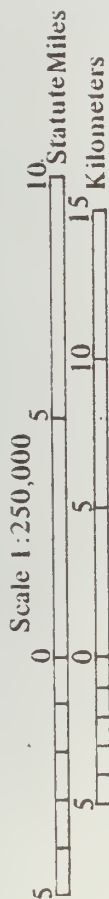
6. Grazing. None.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. The Granite/Providence Herd Management Area range condition is fair.

8. Recreation. Excellent opportunities for hiking and backpacking exist in the Clipper/Marble Mountains south to Cadiz Summit. There are excellent rock and mineral collecting opportunities in the Marble Mountains. One highly-rated interpretive and educational site is within the Planning Unit, the Marble Mountain Trilobite site. The area by the Castle Mine is heavily used for research and education. Thirty-five percent of the planning unit is rated "excellent" for scenic quality. Current activities include camping and rockhounding.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral. There has been small past production of gold, silver, and copper in the Gold Belt Mine area, 2,000 tons of iron has been produced from the southern Marble Mountains, and there has been intermittent production of bentonite clay north of Cadiz. There has also been past production of dimension stone in the Marble Mountains, and there is a limestone prospect in the same area. Past production in the Clipper Mountains includes two gold mines, and a tungsten mine. The area east of the Clipper Mountains has moderate mineral potential. Two sand and gravel deposits with some production are in the Fenner Valley. There are 5 patented claims and 7 unpatented claims reported by the BLM as of December 1979.





**74**

PLANNING UNIT



CLASS C



CLASS L



CLASS M



CLASS I



UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR



AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

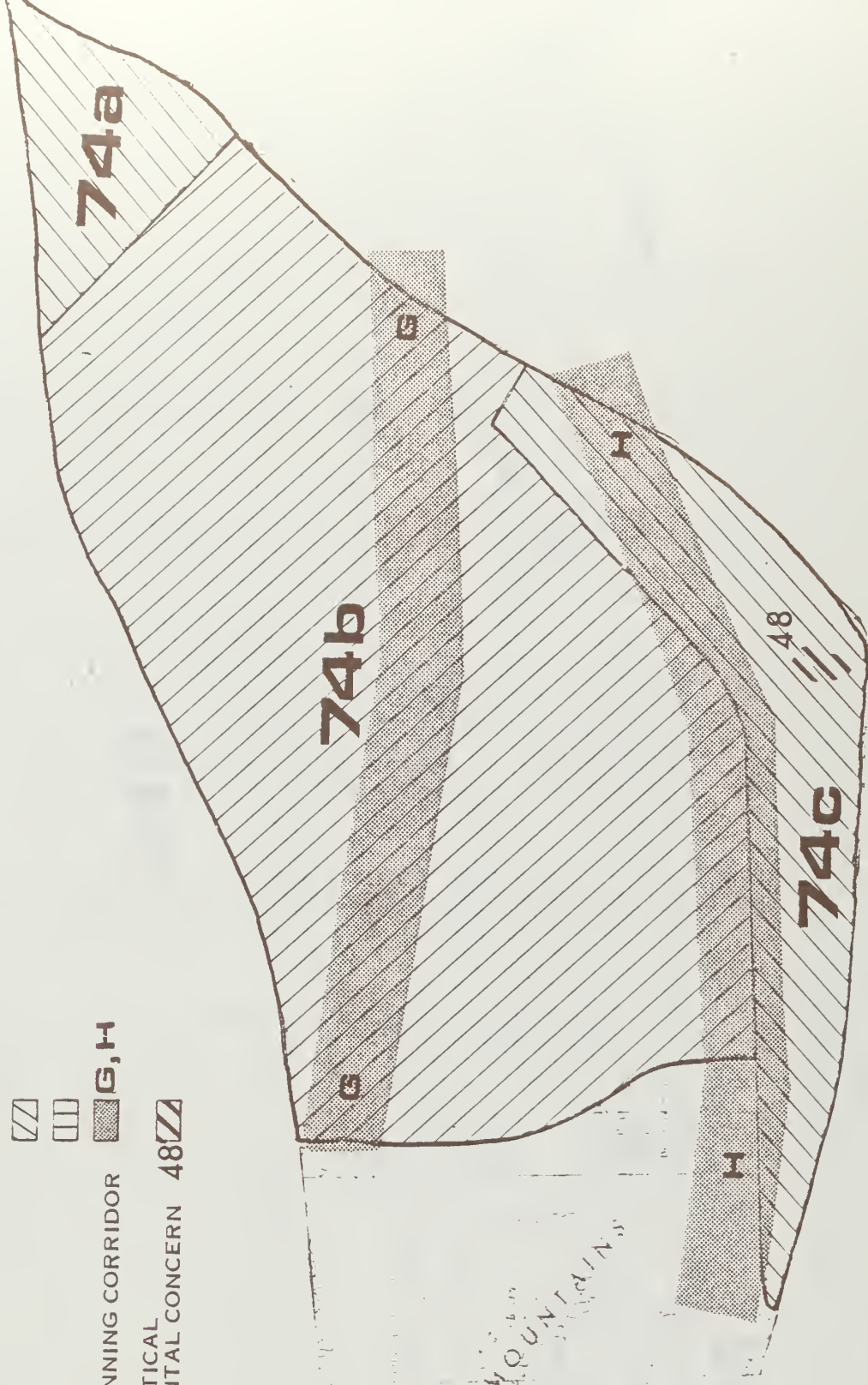


-377-

**74a**

**74b**

**74c**



MAP 84





# PLANNING UNIT **74**

- HABITAT MGMT PLAN **w-35**
- HERD MGMT AREA PLAN
- GRAZING ALLOTMENT **40, 43.**

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

- OPEN
- APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL
- EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL
- CLOSED



## PLANNING UNIT #75

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife and cultural resources while providing vehicle access for mineral exploration, recreation, and grazing management. (75a, Map 86)

b) This area is recommended as Class M to provide access for grazing management, and mineral exploration and development, while providing mitigation of impacts of permitted uses on natural resources and Native American values. (75b, Map 86)

c) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, scenic quality, soils, and Native American concerns, while providing access for mineral exploration and development and grazing and burro management. (75c, Map 86)

#### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Fenner and Chemehuevi Valley. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially the desert tortoise. Completion of the plan is to be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros, changes in livestock grazing practices and acquisition of private lands. (W35, Map 87)

4. Grazing Allotments. Lazy Daisy Allotment. This allotment will change the range designation from ephemeral/perennial to strictly ephemeral. Grazing will be limited to lower elevations away from highly critical tortoise habitat. (54, Map 87)

Lanfair Valley Allotment. This allotment will retain a ephemeral/perennial designation with an authorized use level of 12,168 Animal Unit Months. Season of use is all year long. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will consider bighorn sheep, and crucial desert tortoise habitat. (47, Map 87)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Piute wild burro area. Burros will be removed from this area because it is critical bighorn sheep habitat. The removal of these burros will be discussed in the capture plan portion of the East Mojave Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The HMAP is medium priority and will be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1981. (R, Map 87)

6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor "E" forms the eastern boundary of the planning unit, (E, Map 86) while corridors "G" and "H" form part of the boundary between sub-units B and C (G, H, Map 86). These corridors follow existing routes, and are a portion of a regional network designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines.

## B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Two known high and two very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance areas are located within this planning unit. REcorded site types include a village, temporary camps, lithic scatters, rockshelters, pottery loci, and several historic sites. Sites are concentrated in the northern end of the Old Woman Mountains and the Piute Mountains.

2. Native American. There is an area currently used by some Chemehuevi, Mohave, and Panamint Shoshone for deer hunting, and seasonal collection. Many large campsites, villages, and associated burials are scattered throughout the Planning Unit. Some specific locations in the Old Woman Mountains are of traditional importance.

3. Wildlife. The desert tortoise, and desert bighorn sheep are on the BLM sensitive species list. Other important species include the prairie falcon and mule deer. The Fenner-Chemehuevi Valley Desert Tortoise Habitat is of particular importance to wildlife.

4. Vegetation. No special vegetation values were identified.

5. Wilderness. There are three Wilderness Study Areas within Planning Unit #75.

| <u>Wilderness Study Area</u> | <u>Ranking (out of 137)</u> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| #288 Piute Mountains         | 102                         |
| #288A Essex                  | 114                         |
| #295 Pilot Peak              | 106                         |

See Appendix III.

6. Grazing. The Lazy Daisy Allotment range condition is good.

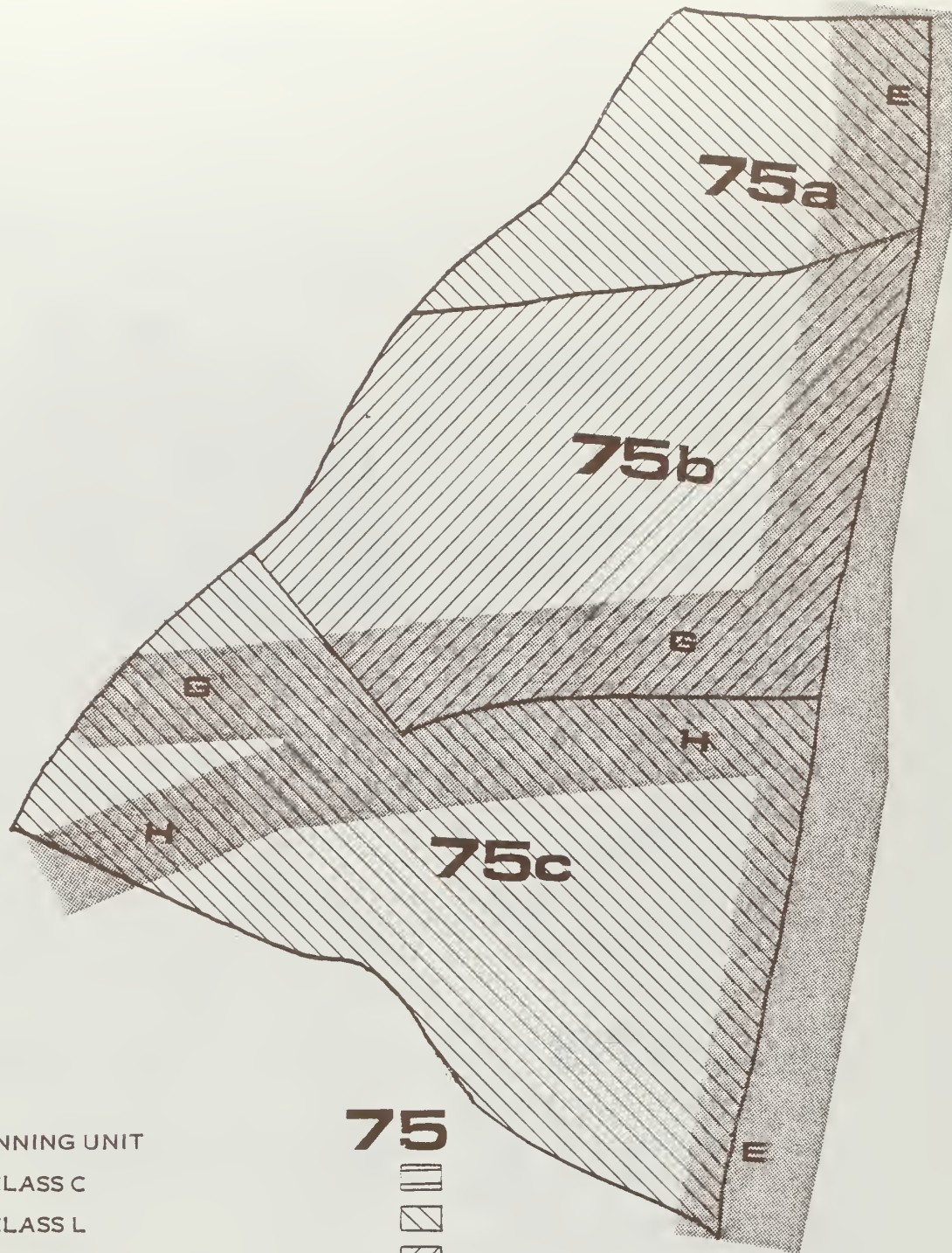
7. Wild Horses and Burros. The Piute wild burro area range condition is fair. About 50 wild burros are present.

8. Recreation. There are excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities in the southern Piute Mountains near Fenner Springs. Approximately 15 miles of Interstate Highway 40 is eligible for designation as a State Scenic Route. Current activities include camping, and rockhounding.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Piute Mountains north of Interstate 40 contain one lead-silver mine, one lead-silver-gold mine, one mercury prospect, one feldspar-quartz prospect, two barite deposits, two copper occurrences, and one uranium occurrence.

Piute Mountains south of Interstate 40 contain four gold occurrences, one iron occurrence, two sand and gravel deposits, and the Piute limestone deposit. The Little Piute Mountains are known to contain one silica, one quartz-mica, one mica, one gold, and one uranium mine. The Mercury Mountains contains one mercury prospect and occurrences of mercury, antimony, lead, copper and tungsten. There are a total of 44 unpatented claims in the planning unit which are reported by the BLM.





**PLANNING UNIT**

CLASS C

CLASS L

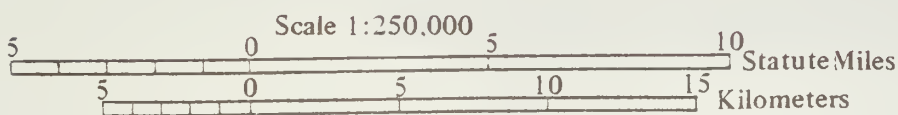
CLASS M

CLASS I

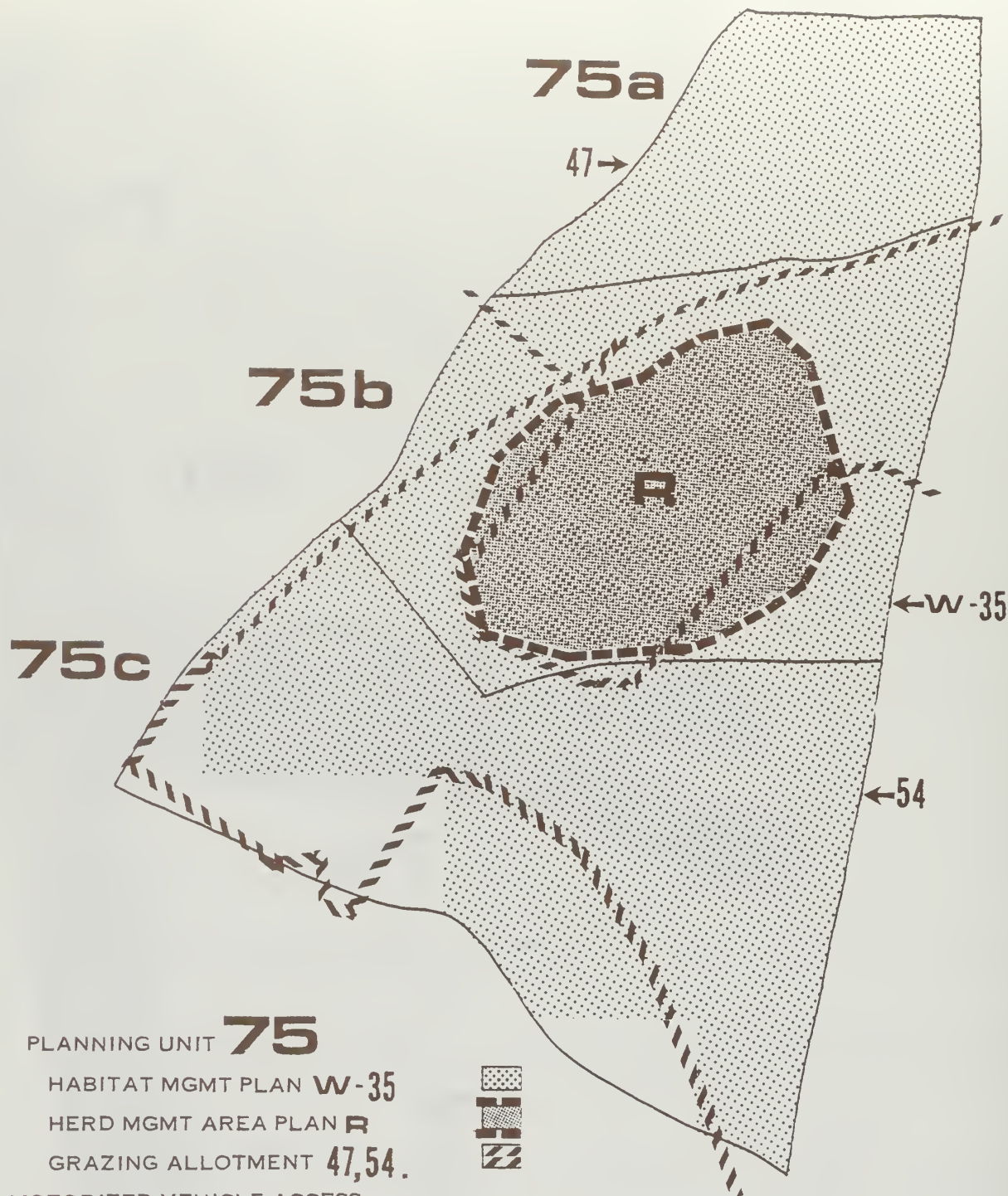
UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

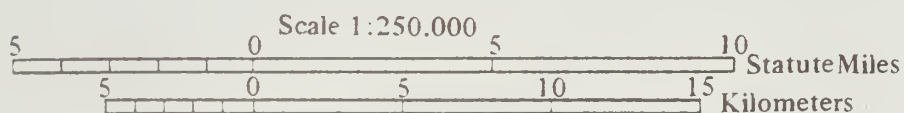
**75**







MAP 87



## PLANNING UNIT #76

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class

a) This is recommended as Class M to provide access for mineral exploration, recreation and development and grazing management, while protecting wildlife and other desert resources by mitigating impacts of permitted uses (76a, Map 88).

b) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, vegetative, scenic, and cultural resources while providing limited access for mineral exploration, recreation, and grazing management (76 b, Map 88).

#### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. Planning Unit #76 contains two Habitat Management Plans (HMP). These are Fenner/Chemehuevi Valley. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially the desert tortoise. Completion of the plan is to be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros, changes in livestock grazing practices and acquisition of private lands (W35, Map 89).

Chemehuevi Wash. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially wash vegetation, and to determine the possibility of reintroducing pronghorn antelope. Completion of the plan is to be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros (W37, Map 89).

The planning unit also contains one vehicle restriction; in the Stepladder Mountains. The management objective is to protect wildlife values, especially the teddy bear cholla association. Management prescriptions will include restriction on which roads may be used (W36, Map 89).

4. Grazing Allotments. Chemehuevi Proposed Allotment. This proposed allotment was eliminated because of overriding wildlife and cultural values.

Lazy Daisy Allotment. This allotment will change the range designation from ephemeral/perennial to strictly ephemeral. Grazing will be limited to lower elevations away from highly critical tortoise habitat (54, Map 89).

#### 5. Wild Horses and Burros

There are Herd Management Area Plans.

6. Utility Corridors. The planning unit is bordered by two utility corridors: "E" on the west and "I" on the east (E, 1, Map 88). It is crossed by corridor "GG" (GG, Map 88). These corridors follow existing routes, and are a portion of a regional system designed to link power sources, and areas of power consumption.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Three areas of identified high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are located within this planning unit. Site types include lithic scatters, rock art, trails, rockshelters, and historic mining remains. Most sites are concentrated in the Stepladder Mountains.

2. Native American. Villages are distributed throughout a portion of the Planning Unit, in association with both permanent and seasonal water sources. Traditional Chemehuevi hunting areas are also found throughout the Planning Unit. Burial areas and areas of ritual use reflect extensive occupation.

3. Wildlife. The only BLM sensitive species present is the desert tortoise. Other important species include the golden eagle, prairie falcon, and the Brazilian free-tailed bat. Historically, the American pronghorn was found in this Planning Unit. The Fenner-Chemehuevi desert tortoise habitat, Chemehuevi Wash, and the stepladder Mountains Teddy Bear cholla association are of particular importance to wildlife.'

4. Vegetation. Planning Unit #76 contains two unusual plant assemblages: The Stepladder Mountains Teddy Bear cholla, and a small assemblage of Crucifixion Thorn.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #76 contains Wilderness Study Area #294, Stepladder Mountain. It is rated #70 out of 137.

6. Grazing. The Lazy Daisy Allotment range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. Excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities are available in the Stepladder Mountains. Excellent rated rock and mineral collection areas are present in the northern Turtle Mountains.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral. There are two gold occurrences southwest of the Sacramento Mountains. The U.S. Geological Survey classifies both Ward and Chemehuevi Valleys as prospectively valuable for oil and gas. There are a total of 223 unpatented claims reported by the BLM in the extreme southwest corner of the area which have been located for uranium. In the northern part of the Planning Unit 31 unpatented claims are recorded with the BLM.

#### PLANNING UNIT #77

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

##### 1. Multiple Use Class

a) This area is recommended as Class M to provide access for mineral exploration and development and recreation, while providing for mitigation of impacts of permitted uses on wildlife and cultural resources (77a, Map 88).



b),c) These areas are recommended as Class L to protect wilderness characteristics, wildlife, sensitive soils, unique plant assemblages, scenic quality, and Native American concerns, while providing limited access for mineral exploration and development and recreation (77b, 77c, Map 88).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Fenner/Chemehuevi Valleys. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially desert tortoise. Completion of the plan is to be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros, changes in livestock grazing practices and acquisition of private lands (W35, Map 89).

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Chemehuevi Wash. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially the stand of wash vegetation, and to determine the possibility of reintroducing pronghorn. Completion of the plan is to be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros (W37, Map 58).

4. Grazing Allotments. Lanfair Valley Allotment. This allotment will retain a ephemeral/perennial designation with an authorized use level of 12,168 Animal Unit Months. Season of use is all year long. A high priority Allotment Management Plan will consider bighorn sheep, and crucial Desert Tortoise habitat (47, Map 89).

Needles Allotment. The proposed Needles Allotment was eliminated because of over-riding wildlife and archaeological concerns.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. The feral burro population in the Chemehuevi Herd Management Area will be reduced from 1,800 to 150 animals. The Colorado River Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) will be completed by the BLM Yuma District. Although the HMAP is medium priority, it is scheduled for completion by the end of Fiscal Year 1980.

6. Utility Corridors. Planning Unit #77 is surrounded by Corridor E (E, Map 88) on the west, I on the southwest (I, Map 88), and G on the south. Corridor F crosses the planning unit in a north to south direction - partly on the eastern boundary (F, Map 88).

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

## B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Four recognized high and one very high areas of cultural resource sensitivity/significance are located within this planning unit. Recorded site types include caves, rock art, trails, lithic scatters, pottery loci, and hisoric remains. Most of these sites are concentrated in the eastern portion of the Sacramento Mountians and Eagle Pass.

2. Native American. Planning Unit #77 contains numerous rock art, village, burial sites. Temporary camps and trails of significance to the Mohave are



distributed throughout the region.

3. Wildlife. The desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep are the only BLM sensitive species present. Other important species are the prairie falcon and the mule deer. Historically, the American pronghorn was found in this area. The Fenner-Chemehuevi desert tortoise habitat and the Chemehuevi Wash are particularly important to wildlife.

4. Vegetation. The major botanical feature is the cholla patch at south pass in the Sacramento Mountains.

5. Wilderness. There are two Wilderness Study Areas in Planning Unit #77. WSA #290, Bigelow Cholla Garden, is rated #68 out of 137. WSA #292, Sacramento Mountain, is rated #64 out of 137. See Appendix III.

6. Grazing. The Lanfair Valley Allotment range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. There are about 1,200 feral burros within the Chemehueve Herd Management Area. Range condition is fair.

8. Recreation. Excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities are available in the Sacramento Mountains. There is one highly-rated interpretive and educational site - the Bigelow Cholla in South Pass. About 40 miles of Interstate Highway 40 are eligible for designation as a state scenic route. Thirty percent of the Planning Unit is rated "excellent" for scenic quality.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral. The area north and immediately south of Interstate 40 contains extensive sand and gravel deposits with some past production. In the Ibex Mining District there has been some mining of gold, silver, and copper. In the central part of the planning unit there are 3 magnesite deposits with undetermined production. There are 3 gold occurrences, sand and gravel deposits, and rock quarries located on the east side of the central Sacramento Mountains. Sand and gravel deposits with some production located along the east boundary of this central part. The area south of Needles and the northeastern Chemehuevi Valley have been classified as prospectively valuable for oil and gas by the U.S. Geological Survey. Uranium potential exists due north of Snaggletooth. There are 374 unpatented claims reported by the BLM as of December 1979.

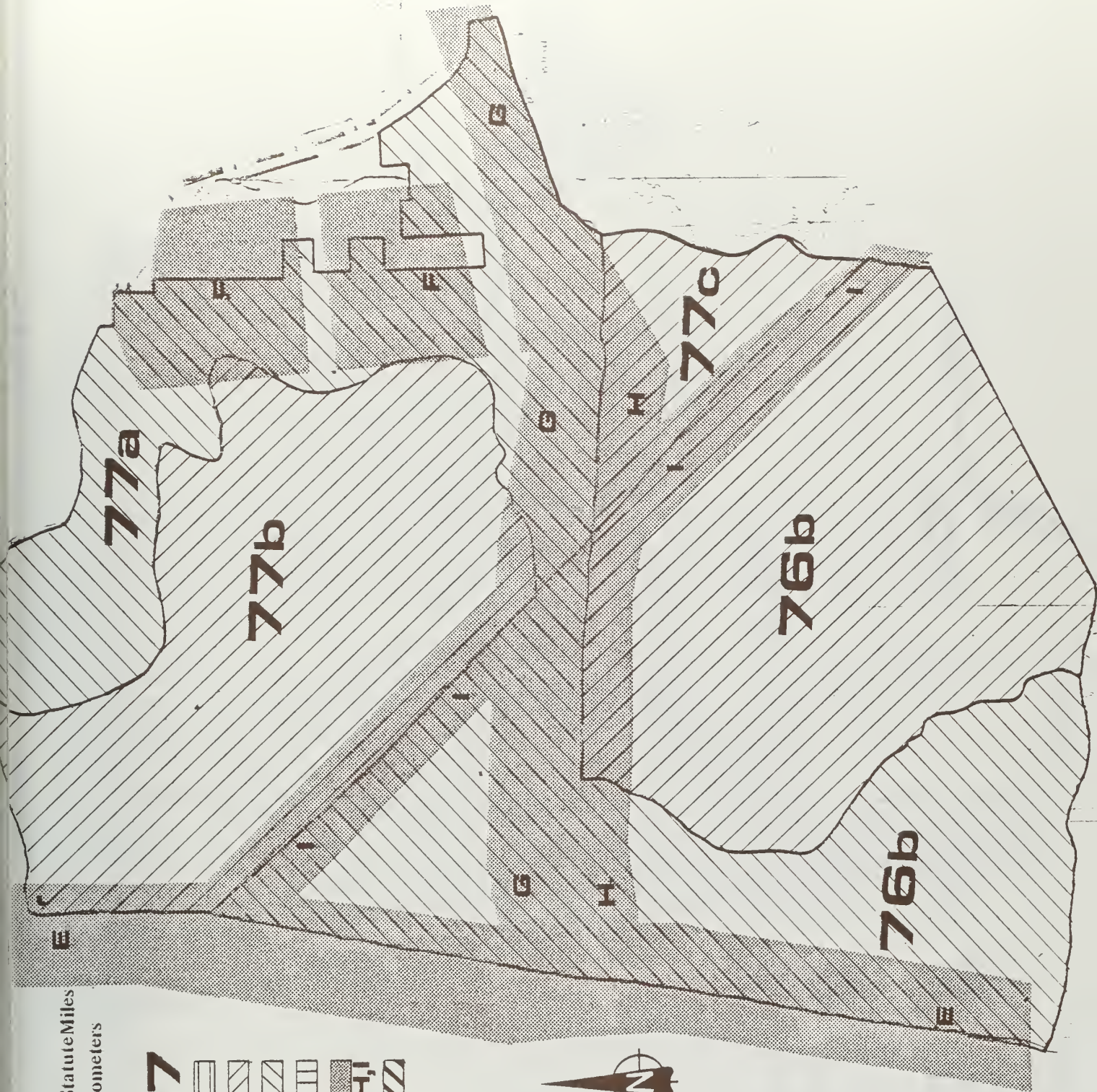


**76,77**

PLANNING UNIT

- CLASS C
- CLASS L
- CLASS M
- CLASS I
- UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR
- AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

**E, F, G, H, I**





# PLANNING UNIT **76,77**

- HABITAT MGMT PLAN **W-35, W-37** 
- HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **B, H** 
- GRAZING ALLOTMENT **47, 54** 

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

- OPEN 
- APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL 
- EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL 
- CLOSED 



## PLANNING UNIT #78

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class

a) This area is recommended as Class C in consideration of its outstanding wilderness rating and wildlife vegetative, and cultural values. (78a, Map 90)

b) This area is recommended as Class L to protect natural and cultural resources while providing access for mineral exploration and development. (78b, Map 90)

#### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. Planning Unit #78 contains two Habitat Management Plans (HMP). These are: Fenner/Chemehuevi Valley. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially the desert tortoise. Completion of the plan is to be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burro, changes in livestock grazing practice and acquisition of private lands. (W35, Map 91)

Chemehuevi Wash. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially the stand of wash vegetation, and to determine the possibility of reintroducing American pronghorn antelope. Completion of the plan will be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros. (W37, Map 91)

#### 4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. The wild burro population in the Chemehuevi Herd Management Area will be reduced from 1,200 to 150 animals. The Colorado River Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) is a medium priority HMAP and will be completed by the BLM Yuma District by the end of Fiscal Year 1980. (B, Map 90)

6. Utility Corridors. Corridor "I" passes along the southwest border of Planning Unit 78. (L, Map 90)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Well over 50% of this planning unit is covered by known high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance areas. Many sites have been recorded in this region, clustering along major washes in the Chemehuevi Mountains. Recorded sites include temporary camps, rock art, milling stations, roasting pits, trails, rockshelters, and historic mining remains. This is an extremely sensitive area, with high research potential.

2. Native American. Mountainous area, springs, and canyon areas were associated with ritual and collection activities. Religious pilgrimages have



been made to the Chemehuevi Mountains.

3. Wildlife. The desert tortoise and the desert bighorn sheep are on the BLM sensitive species list. The only other important species present is the Prairie Falcon. Historically, the American pronghorn antelope was found in this region. The Fenner-Chemehuevi valleys, and Chemehuevi Wash are important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation. No special vegetation values were identified.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #78 contains Wilderness Study Area #310, Chemehuevi Mountains. It is ranked #18 out of 137.

6. Grazing. None.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. Range conditions in the Chemehuevi Herd Management Area are poor. There are about 1,200 feral burros present.

8. Recreation. Hiking and backpacking opportunities in the Chemehuevi Mountains are excellent. 75% of the Planning Unit are rated excellent for scenic quality.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Known mineral occurrences are located along U.S. Route 95 on the western boundary of the planning unit: 1 copper, 1 gold, and 1 lead; also in the same area is 1 sand and gravel occurrence. 374 unpatented claims were reported by the BLM as of December 1979.

#### PLANNING UNIT #84

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

###### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, vegetation, soils, scenic, cultural resource and Native American values, while allowing vehicle access for mineral exploration and development, recreation, and burro management. (84a, Map 90)

b) This area is recommended as Class C because of an outstanding wilderness rating and high wildlife, vegetation, and cultural values, sensitive soils, scenic quality and Native American concerns. (84b, Map 90)

c) This area is recommended as Class L to protect natural and cultural resources while providing access for mineral exploration. (84e, Map 90)

d) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for continuing mining activities. Desert resources and Native American concerns will be protected by mitigating impacts of permitted uses. (84d, Map 90)

e) This sub-unit of Planning Unit 84 is recommended as Class M to provide access for mineral exploration and production. (84e, Map 90)

###### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #84 contains ACEC

#53, the Whipple Mountains. The management objective is to protect Native American values. See Appendix IV for details. (53, Map 90)

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Fenner and Chemehuevi Valleys. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially the desert tortoise. Completion of the plan will be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros, changes in livestock grazing practices and acquisition of private lands. (W35, Map 91)

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Chemehuevi Wash. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially wash vegetation, and to determine the possibility of reintroducing American pronghorn antelope. Completion of the plan will be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros. (W37, Map 91)

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Vidal Wash. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially the wash vegetation. Completion of the plan is to be within 7 years. (W39, Map 91)

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Whipple Mountains. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially saguaro stands, and to determine the potential for reintroduction of the desert bighorn sheep. Completion of the plan will be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros, and protection of water sources. (W38, Map 91)

4. Grazing Allotments. Chemehuevi Allotment. This proposed allotment was eliminated because of overriding wildlife values. (Not Mapped).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. The Chemehuevi Herd Management Area (HMA) is within this planning unit. The wild burro population will be reduced from 1,200 to 500 animals. The Colorado River Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) which covers the Chemehuevi HMA is a medium priority HMAP and will be completed by the BLM Yuma District by the end of Fiscal Year 1980. (B, Map 91)

6. Utility Corridors. Corridor "I" forms the northern boundary of Planning Unit #84. (I, Map 90)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There is one exception to the multiple use class guidelines. ACEC #53, which is in an area of existing routes of travel, will be managed as approved routes of travel to protect Native American values. (I, Map 91)

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Four known areas of very high and seven areas of high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are located within this planning unit. The entire planning unit is highly sensitive, with exceptional areas in the Whipple Mountains, Savahia Peak, Pyramid Butte, and Chemehuevi Wash. The full range of site types is represented, including villages, rockshelters, temporary camps, lithic scatters, rock art, sherd scatters, trails, rock

rings, roasting pits, and historic remains. Many of these sites are in excellent condition. This is one of the most important portions of the Colorado Desert.

2. Native American. Planning Unit #84 contains a Chemehuevi trading camp, a mesquite collection area, and several mortuary sites.

3. Wildlife. The desert tortoise, and desert bighorn sheep are the only animals present on the BLM Sensitive Species list. Other important species include the prairie falcon, Brazilian free-tailed bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, and mule deer. Historically the American pronghorn was found in this area. The Fenner - Chemehuevi desert tortoise habitat, Chemehuevi Wash, and Vidal Wash are specially important to wildlife.

4. Vegetation. One sensitive plant species is found in the planning unit. There is an unusual plant assemblage, a saguaro - foothill palo verde association, the only such assemblage of its kind in California. There are also some scattered Crucifixion thorn in Chemehuevi Wash.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #84 contains Wilderness Study Area #312, the Whipple Mountains. It is ranked #8 out of 137.

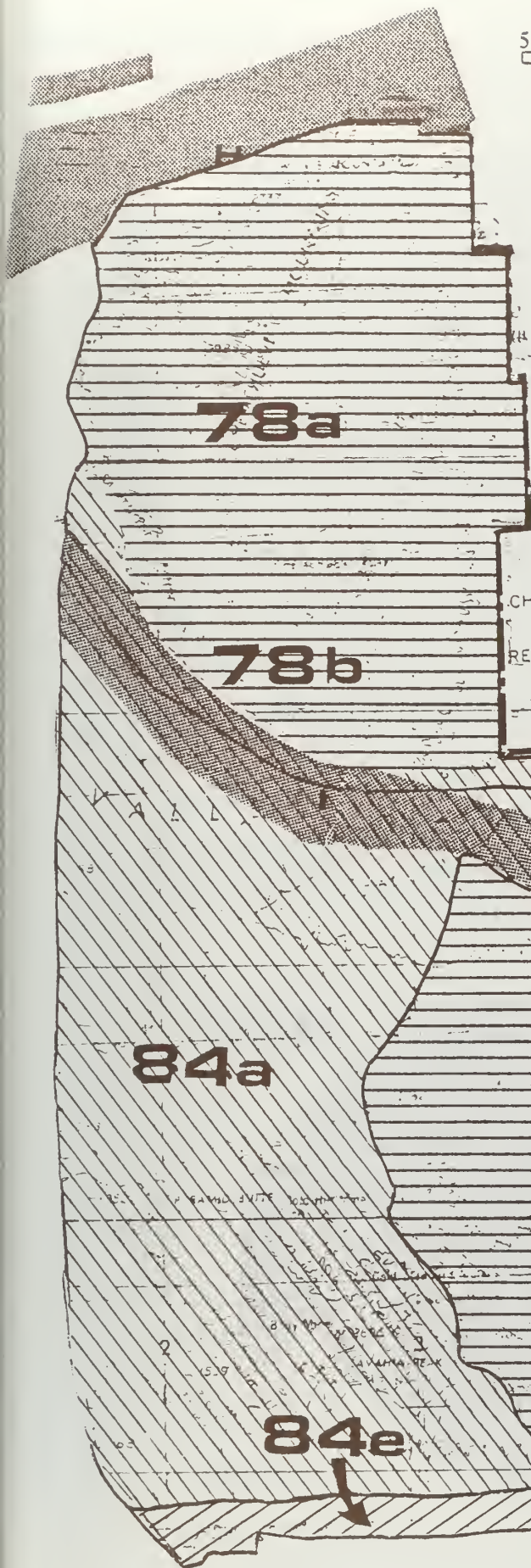
6. Grazing. None.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. The Chemehuevi Herd Management Area contains about 1,200 feral burros. Range condition is fair.

8. Recreation. There are excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities in the Whipple Mountains. The Whipple Mountains are rated excellent for interpretation and education. 45% of the Planning Unit received a rating of excellent for scenic quality.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. In 1979, gold-silver ore was produced at the Gold Queen Mine near Savahai Peak. During the 1970s, the Copper Basin area was explored. The area contains over 12 million tons of ore that averages 0.54 percent copper. The American Eagle Mine produced 122,194 pounds of copper. In 1944, the California Division of Mines and Geology reported reserves of 90,000 tons of ore which averaged 3.8 percent copper at this mine. There are 41 gold, silver, copper or lead mines most of which have small or unrecorded production. There are 6 manganese mines, and 43 prospects where the mineral commodity has not been identified. Barite of possible commercial value occurs near Savahai Peak. Uranium reportedly occurs in the northwestern part of the area. Sand and gravel pits are located adjacent to the metropolitan Water District aquaduct. The U.S. Geological Survey has classified parts of the area prospectively valuable for sodium/potassium and oil and gas. There are 5 patented claims and over 400 unpatented claims recorded with the BLM.





78,84

10



|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|



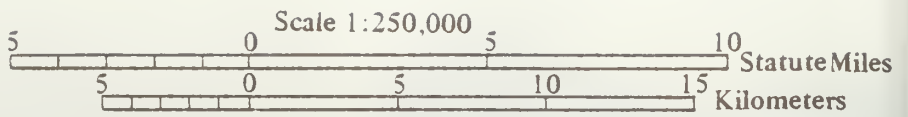
53●

CHEMEHUEVI  
INDIAN  
RESERVATION

CHENEHUEVI  
INDIAN  
RESERVATION Roads and Camp

MAF 90





# PLANNING UNIT **78,84**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **W35,37**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **B**

GRAZING ALLOTMENT

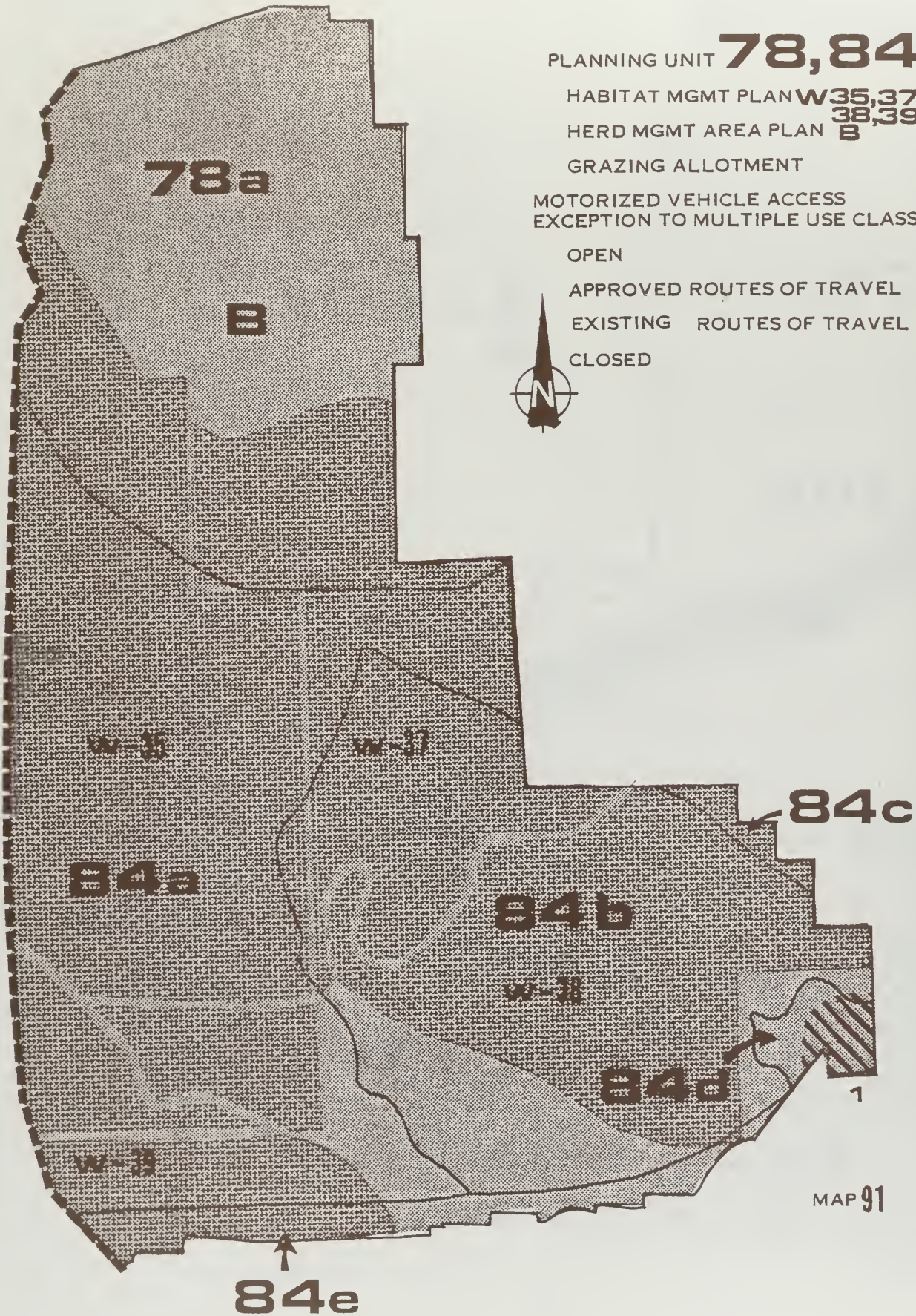
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL **1**

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED





## PLANNING UNIT #79

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect natural and cultural resources while providing access for recreation and mineral exploration and development.

b) This area is recommended as Class I to provide for continuation and expansion of existing mining activities. (79b, Map 92)

c) This area is recommended as Class C status because of high wilderness and wildlife values and a lack of competing resources. (79c, Map 92)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. No special wildlife Management Plans are proposed.

4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. There are no wild horse and burro Herd Management Area Plans.

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be one exception to the multiple use class guidelines. Sub-unit B is recommended as Class I due to mining activities but will be managed for access on existing routes of travel (I, Map 93)

### B VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Few archaeological remains have been recorded in this region. One area of high cultural resource sensitivity/significant is located along the northeast edge of Bristol Lake where three temporary camps were recorded. The remainder of the planning unit has not been systematically surveyed.

2. Native American. Bristol Lake has been traditionally used as a source of salt by the Parker area Chemehuevi. Numerous permanent campsites, used for seasonal food, craft, and material collections are located in this unit.

3. Wildlife. The only BLM sensitive species present is the desert tortoise.

4. Vegetation. There were no special vegetation values identified.

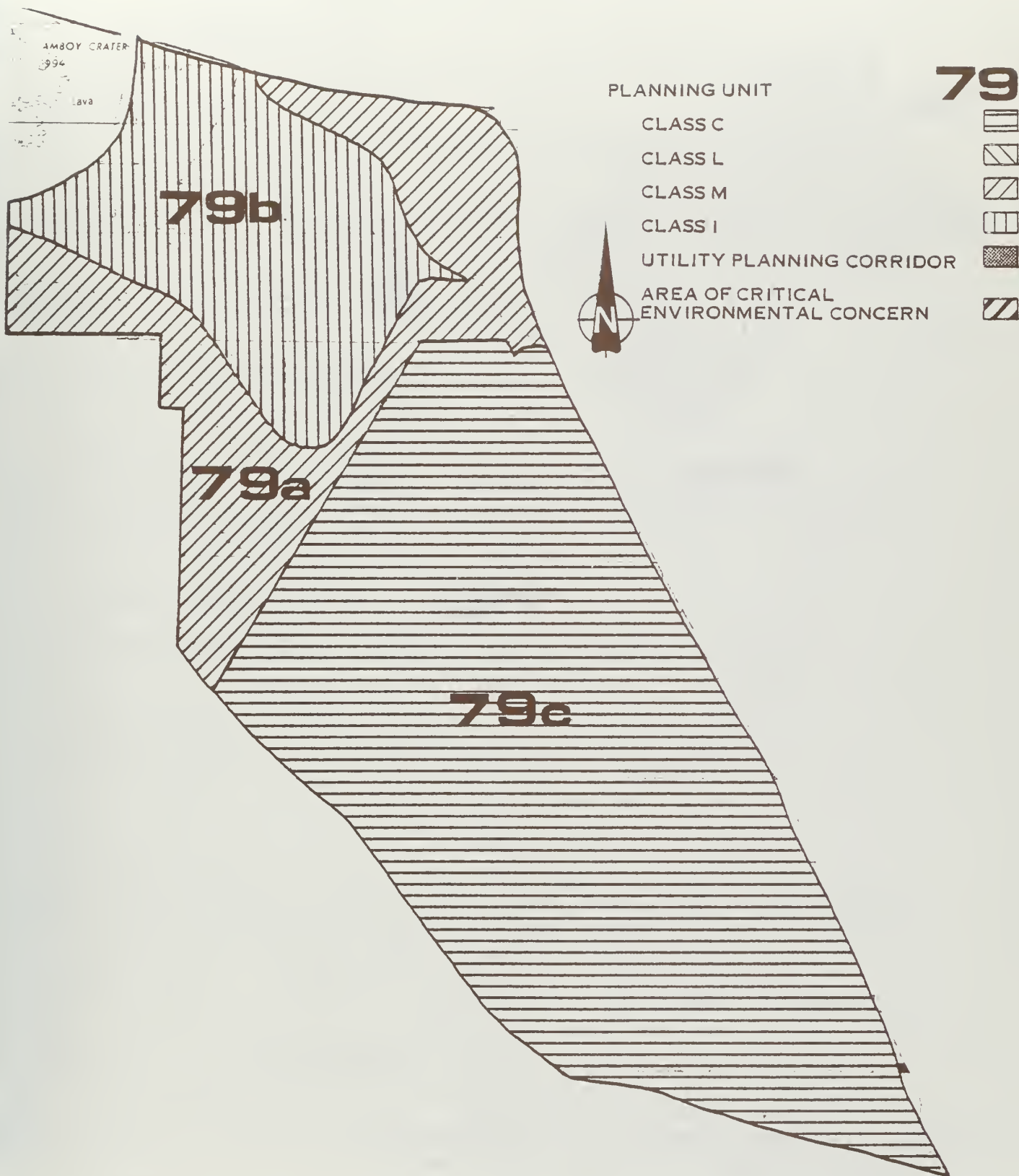
5. Wilderness. Planning Unit 79 contains a portion of Wilderness Study Area 305, Sheephole-Cadiz. It is ranked 63 out of 137.

6. Grazing. None.

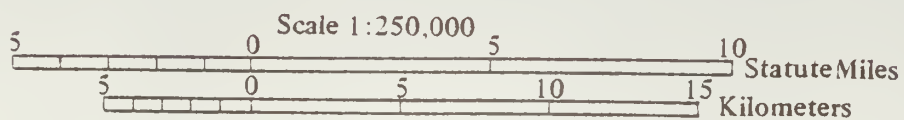
7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. None identified.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. The northern part of the planning unit covers Bristol Playa. Several saline deposits are found here with both current and past production. There has been production from the Amboy Gypsum deposits on the south and west side of the playa, and at the American gold mine south of Bristol Lake. A strontium deposit is located on the southwest side of Bristol Lake. One-hundred forty-five unpatented claims have been recorded by the BLM. Other known minerals occur in the northern Calumet Mountains: three gold, one silver, and one iron. The U. S. Geological Survey has classified the northwest part of the area around Amboy Crater as a Prospective Geothermal Resource Area.



MAP 92





# PLANNING UNIT **79**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT

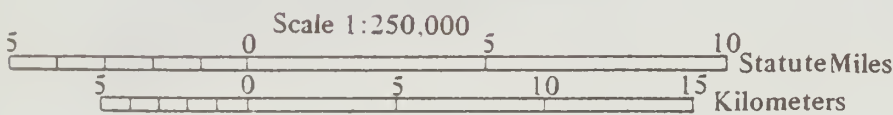
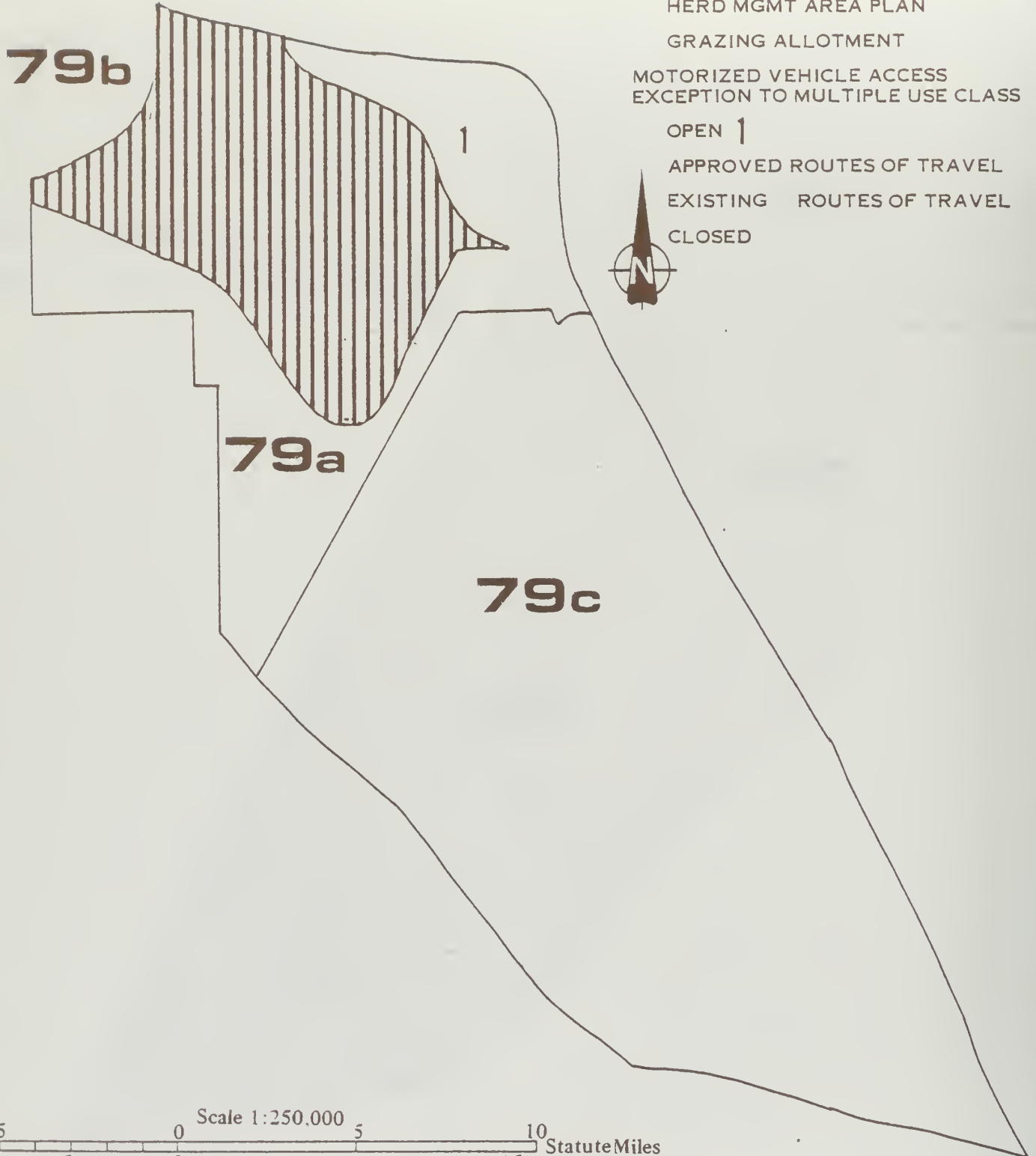
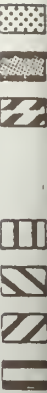
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN 1

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



MAP **93**

## PLANNING UNIT #80

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a. This portion of Planning Unit 80 is recommended as Class M to allow continued mineral exploration and development in a historic mining area.

b. This section of the planning unit is recommended as a Class L to protect wildlife and cultural resources, while permitting limited access for mineral exploration and recreation.

c. This area is recommended as Class C in consideration of its high wilderness values and the presence of sensitive wildlife.

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit 80 contains ACEC #51, Dale Dry Lake. The management objective is to protect prehistoric values. See Appendix IV. (51, Map 94)

3. Wildlife Management. Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Bullion Mountains. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially desert bighorn sheep. Completion of the plan is to be within five years. Long-term management will require protection of water sources. (W40, Map 95)

4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. There are no Herd Management Area Plans for this unit.

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. One area of known high cultural resource sensitivity/significance is located within this planning unit. Three lithic scatters and one temporary camp are recored near Dale Lake. This area has not been surveyed; additional sites surely exist in the region.

2. Native American. Portions of Planning Unit 80 contain temporary and permanent village sites.

3. Wildlife. BLM sensitive species present include the desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep. The only other important species is the prairie falcon.

4. Vegetation. Planning Unit #80 contains a small stand of Crucifixion Thorn.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #80 contains portions of two Wilderness Study

Areas. WSA 304, Cleghorn Lakes, ranked 82 out of 137. WSA 305, Sheephole-Cadiz, is ranked 63 out of 137.

6. Grazing. None.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. None.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. There has been past production of sodium sulfate from Dale Playa, iron from Copper World Mine on the southwest slope of the Bullion Mountains, and gold from the Sheephole Mine in central Sheephole Mountains. There are two uranium occurrences at Bighorn Lake. Thirty-eight unpatented claims cover the Copper World Mine area, and there are 13 in the Sheephole Mine area. Dale Lake and surrounding area is classified as known valuable for sodium by the U.S. Geological Survey.

#### PLANNING UNIT #87

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

###### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) The western portion of Planning Unit #87 is recommended as Class M to provide access for traditional mineral exploration and extraction activities in an area of high mineral potential. Desert resources will be protected by mitigating impacts of permitted uses. (87a, Map 94)

b) This area is recommended as Class C. Its wilderness ranking was high, and it shares a common border with National Park Service Wilderness in Joshua Tree National Monument. This designation will also protect natural and cultural resources. (87b, Map 94)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife. There are no special Wildlife management plans.

4. Grazing. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

##### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Two identified areas of very high cultural resources sensitivity/significance are located within this planning unit. The great majority of the cultural resources recorded consist of historic mining remains, including the Dale Mining District and Gold Park. The only aboriginal sites recorded are in Music Valley, where three lithic scatters and

one quarry are known.

2. Native American. No sites of religious importance or of secular concern were identified.

3. Wildlife. The desert tortoise, and desert bighorn sheep are on the BLM sensitive species list. The only other important species present is the prairie falcon.

4. Vegetation. No special vegetation values were identified.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #87 contains portions of two Wilderness Study Areas. WSA #328, Coxcomb Mountain, was ranked #23 out of 137. WSA #335, Pinto Mountains, was ranked #57 out of 137. See Appendix III for more information.

6. Grazing. None.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

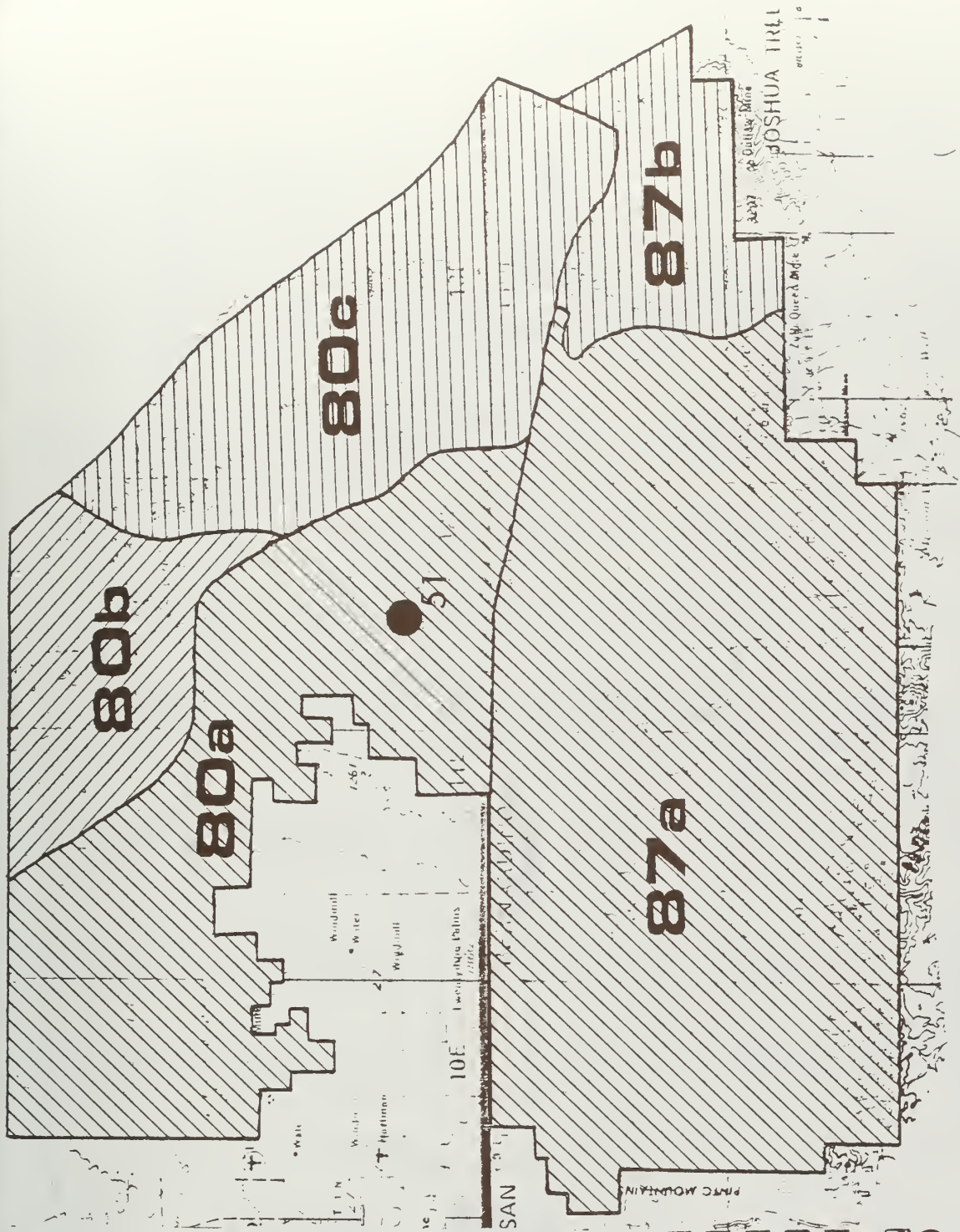
8. Recreation. Approximately 25 miles of State Highway 62 is eligible for designation as a State Scenic Route. Current activities include four wheel drive play, sightseeing, camping, and hobby prospecting.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. The Dale Mining District is one of the more important past gold producing areas of the CDCA. Presently gold is being produced from one mine. Eighteen mines have produced gold, with seven mines (Carlyle, Supply, Virginia Dale, Brooklyn-Los Angeles, Mission, Gold Crown and Jupiter) supplying the major part of an estimated 72,000 ounces of gold. At the Gold Crown and Brooklyn-Los Angeles Mines, silver and gold were produced in about equal quantities. Copper has been produced from five mines. There are also 35 gold occurrences in the district. In the late 1950s, several thousand tons of iron were produced from the Iron Age Mine, east of the Dale Mining District.

There are two other concentrations of mines in the Gold Park and Humbug Mountain areas. There are about 20 gold mines and one lead-silver-zinc mine in the western part of the planning area, but no production is recorded. There are four occurrences of rare earths and thorium, and one occurrence of uranium. There are 18 patented claims and as of December 1979 there were 27 unpatented claims in the Gold Park area were recorded with the BLM.







**80,87**

PLANNING UNIT

CLASS C

CLASS L

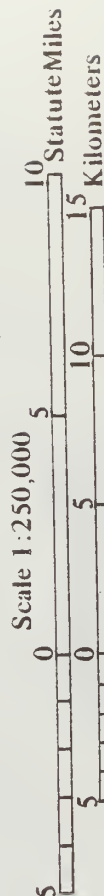
CLASS M

CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

**51**





# PLANNING UNIT **80,87**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **W-40**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT

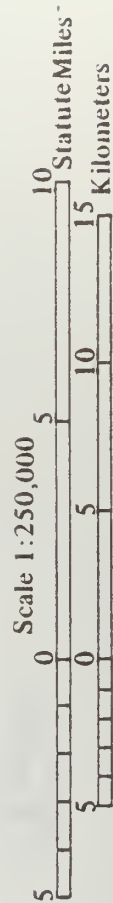
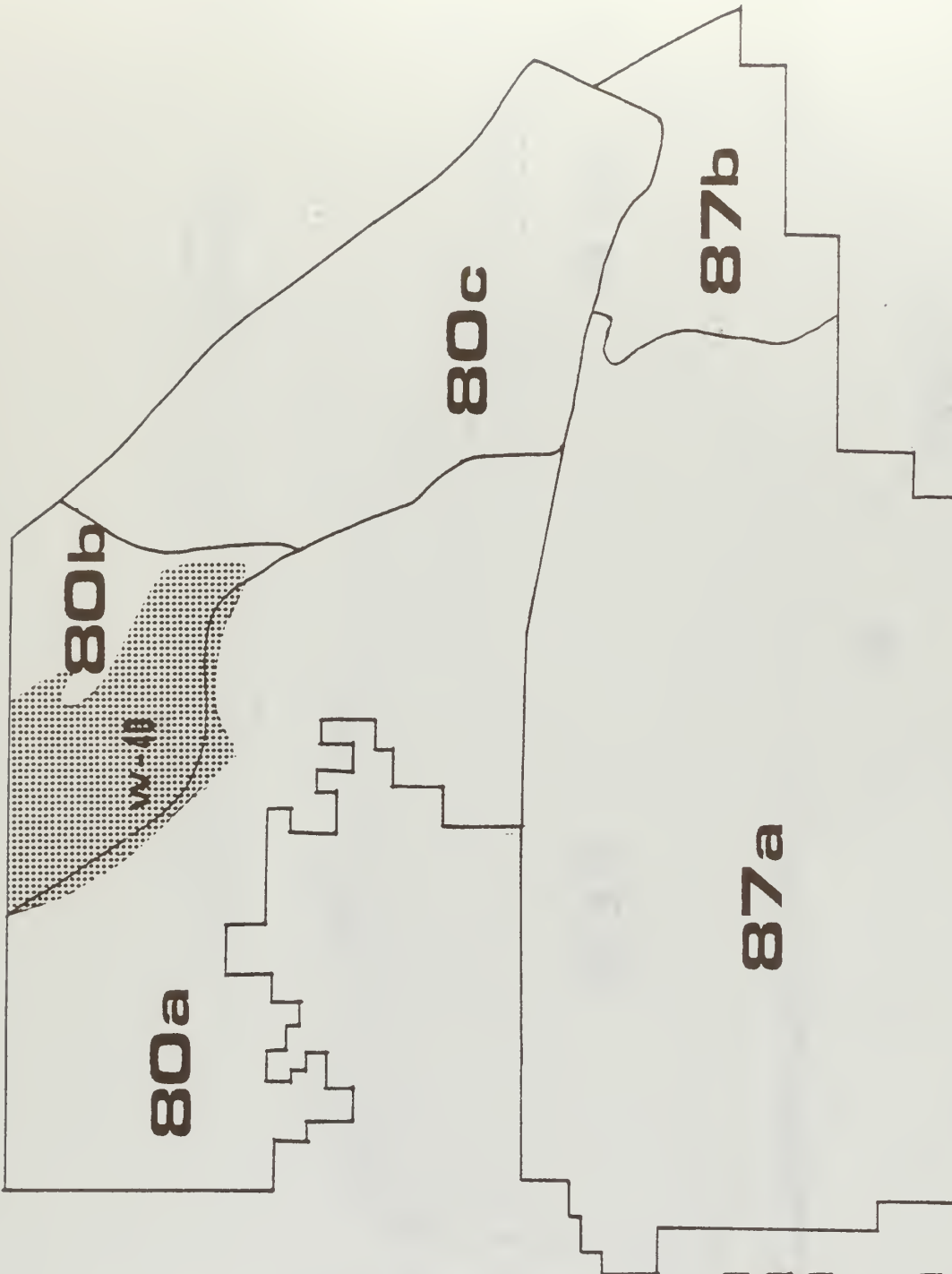
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

IDENTIFIED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



## PLANNING UNIT #81

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for vehicle-oriented recreation and mineral exploration and development. This classification provides for mitigation of impacts on desert resources by permitted uses. (81a, Map 96)

b) This area is recommended Class L to protect wildlife and cultural resources while providing for limited access for recreation and mineral exploration and development. (81b, Map 96)

c) & d) These two areas are recommended as Class I for continuation of existing mining uses. (81c, 81d, Map 96)

e) This area is recommended as Class L. It is the site of ACEC #52, the location of a historic military camp. (81f, Map 96)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit 81 contains ACEC #52, General Patton's Iron Mountain Divisional Camp. The management objective is to protect a historical military training site. See Appendix IV. (52, Map 96).

3. Wildlife Management. There are no special wildlife management plans in this area.

4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. There are no Herd Management Area Plans for this area.

6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor "E" crosses the Planning Unit. It follows an existing route, and is a portion of a regional network designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption. (E, Map 96)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be 4 exception to the Multiple Use Class guidelines for motorized vehicle access in Planning Unit #81.

ACEC #52, although located (4, Map 97) in a Class L area (approved routes of travel), will be closed to motorized vehicles. (4, Map 97) sub-area C and the north half of sub-area D, both of which are designated Class I, will be managed for access on existing routes of travel. (1,2, Map 97) The Cadiz Dunes in a Class L area (approved routes of travel) will be closed to vehicle access. (3, Map 97)

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Five areas of identified high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are located within this planning unit. Recorded sites include the Iron Mountain Divisional Camp, temporary camps, and lithic



scatters. Most of the aboriginal sites are associated with Cadiz and Danby dry lakes. Historic remains are located along the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad.

2. Native American. No areas of religious importance, or of secular concern were identified.

3. Wildlife. The desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep are on the BLM sensitive species list. Other important species include the prairie falcon, and an endemic dune beetle. The Cadiz Dunes are important for wildlife values.

4. Vegetation. No special vegetation values were identified.

5. Wilderness. None.

6. Grazing. The Palen Allotment range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. There is one highly rated interpretive and educational site - General Patton's Iron Mountain Training Camp. About 35 miles of State Highway 62 is eligible for designation as a State Scenic Route. Major current activities include four-wheel drive, and motorcycle free play, camping, sightseeing, and rockhounding.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. At Cadiz Lake there is currently production of calcium chloride, and there are two occurrences of gypsum, two of gypsum-celestite, and two of halite-gypsum-celestite. A total of 63 unpatented claims are found in the Cadiz area. Danby Lake has extensive sodium chloride (halite) occurrences which have produced. Metallic occurrences in the Kilbeck Hills include gold, uranium, lead, and copper (1 each). Limestone was produced at Chubbuck between 1925 and 1950. The U. S. Geological Survey classified both Cadiz and Danby playas as known and prospectively valuable for sodium. The USGS also classified Danby Lake as prospectively valuable for oil and gas.

# PLANNING UNIT

81

CLASS C



CLASS L



CLASS M



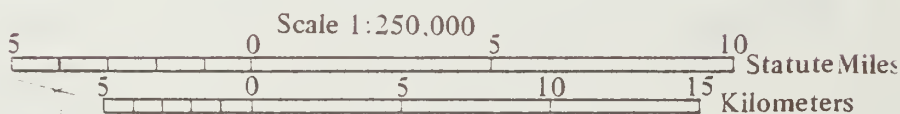
CLASS I



UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR E



AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN 52



81a

81c

81b

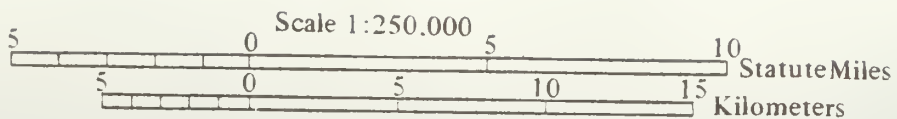
81d

81a

81e

52

MAP 96



# PLANNING UNIT 81

HABITAT MGMT PLAN

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL 1,2

CLOSED



81a

81c

81d

81b

81e



## PLANNING UNIT #82

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class M to provide access for recreation, and for mineral exploration and development. Desert resources will be protected by mitigation of impacts of permitted uses. (82a, Map 100)

b) This area is recommended as Class L to protect high wilderness qualities, wildlife and cultural resources, and Native American concerns. This designation will allow access for mineral exploration and limited motorized recreation. (82b, Map 100)

#### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. There are no special wildlife management plans for Planning Unit #82.

4. Grazing Allotments. Lazy Daisy Allotment. This allotment will change its designation from ephemeral/perennial to strictly ephemeral, and limit grazing in the lower elevations to protect highly crucial desert tortoise habitat. The authorized use level is 3,162 Animal Unit Months. The season of use is all year long. The Allotment Management Plan is high priority, and will consider desert tortoise requirements. (54, Map 99)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. There are no Herd Management Areas.

6. Utility Corridors. The planning unit is bordered on the east side by utility corridor "E." (E, Map 98). Corridor "G" crosses the top-most corner. (H, Map 98) Both corridors follow existing routes, and are a portion of a regional network designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. One known area of very high and five areas of high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are located within this planning unit. Recorded site types include temporary camps, a village, rockshelters, pottery loci, lithics, and historic mining remains. The northern portion of the Old Woman Mountains comprises the most sensitive area.

2. Native American. Portions of the area are currently used by some Chemehuevi, Mohave, and Panamint Shoshone for seasonal collections and hunting. Large campsites, villages, and burials are dispersed throughout the planning unit.

3. Wildlife. The desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep are on the BLM sensitive species list. Other important species are the prairie falcon and



mule deer.

4. Vegetation. There were no special vegetation values identified.

Unit 82.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit 82 contains two Wilderness Study Areas. WSA 299, the Old Woman Mountains, is ranked 45 out of 137. WSA 300, the Ship Mountains, is ranked 113 out of 137. See Appendix III.

6. Grazing. The Lazy Daisy Allotment range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. Excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities are present in the Old Woman Mountains. Forty percent of the planning unit is rated "excellent" for scenic quality. Current activities include camping and rockhounding.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. In the Old Woman Mountains, gold was produced from the Blue Eagle, Long Shot, and Black Beauty mines; silver, lead, and zinc from the Gemco, Silver Wave, and the Lucky Jim mines; and tungsten from the Jumbo Tungsten, Howe, Hidden Value, and Udsogn mines. Reported mineral occurrences include two of limestone - dolomite, and one of silver. About 84 unpatented mining claims have been reported by BLM in this area as of December, 1979. The east part of the area is classified as prospectively valuable for oil and gas by the U.S. Geological Survey.

# PLANNING UNIT

82

CLASS C



CLASS L



CLASS M



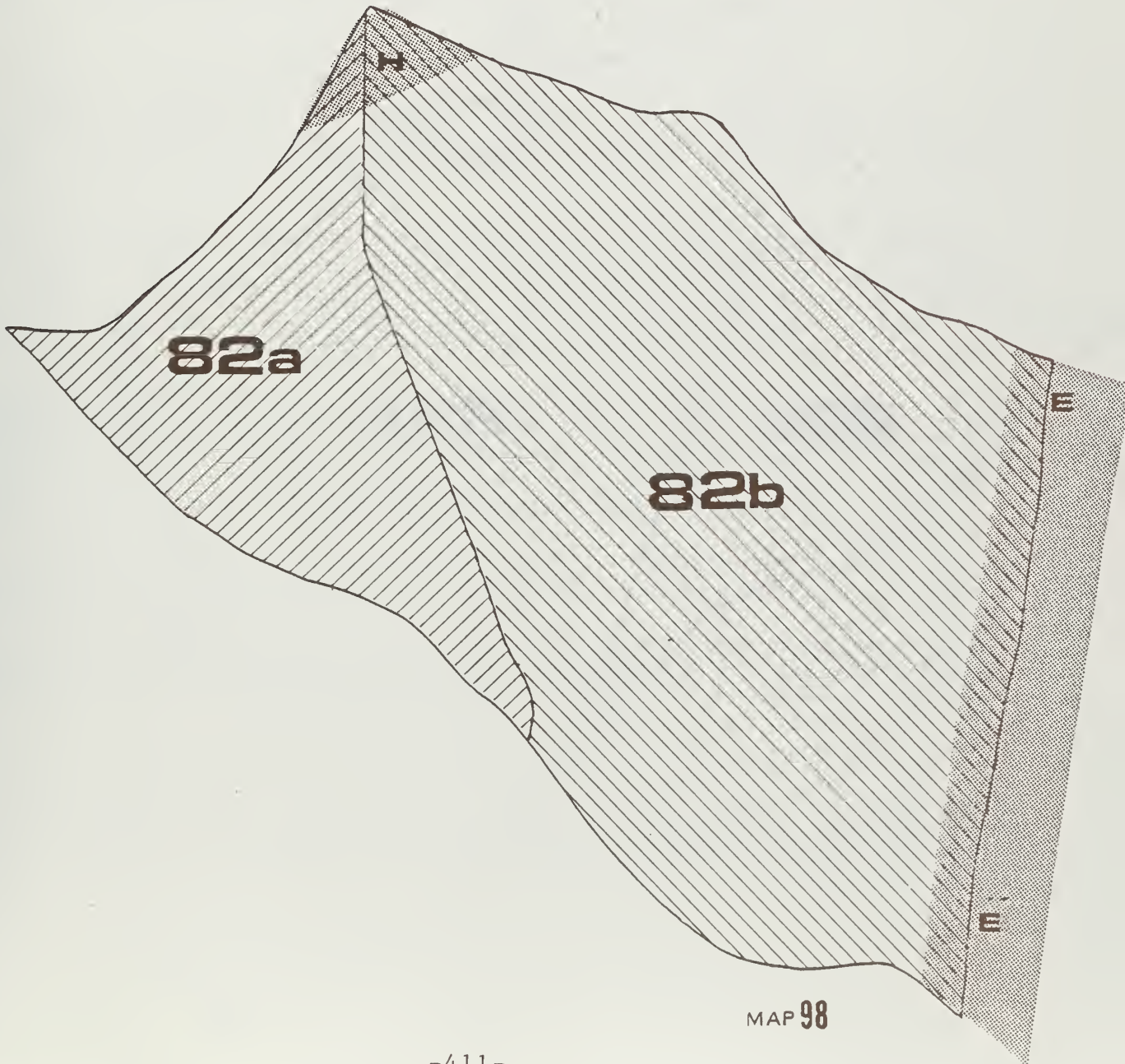
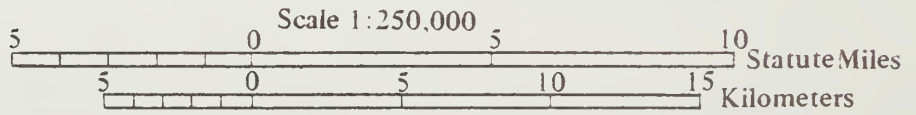
CLASS I



UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR



AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



MAP 98

# PLANNING UNIT **82**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **w-35**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **54**

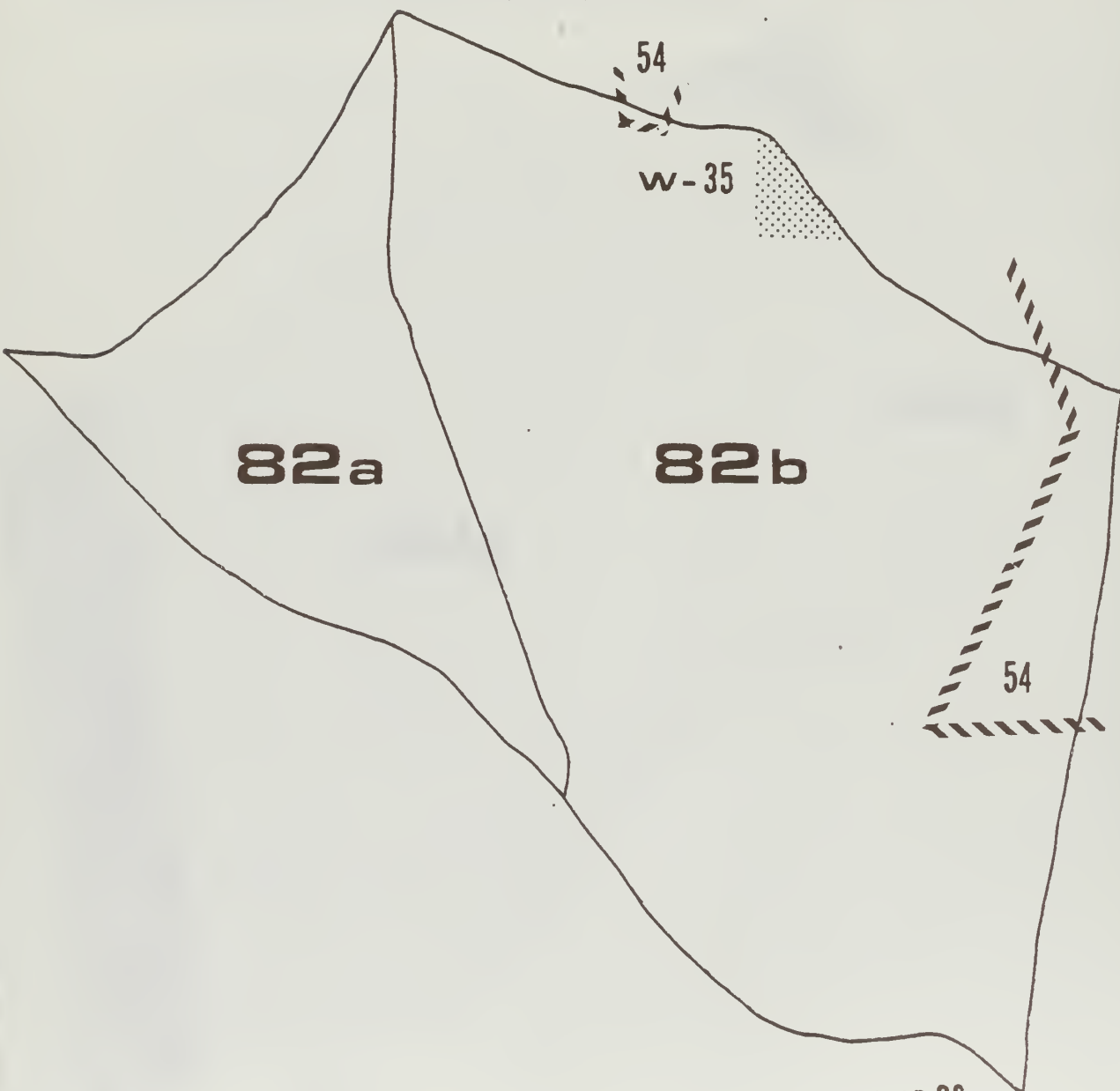
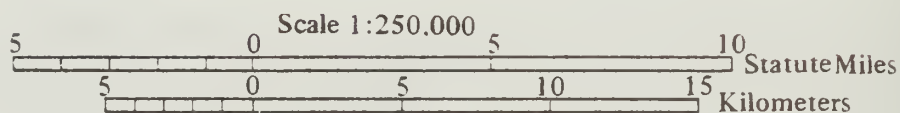
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



MAP **99**

## PLANNING UNIT #83

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to provide protection for wildlife species and habitats, scenic quality, cultural resources, and Native American values. Class L guidelines permit access for mineral exploration and for limited vehicle recreation. (83a, Map 100)

b) The western portion of Planning Unit #83 is recommended as Class M to provide access for mineral exploration and development, grazing management, and recreation. Resource values will be protected by mitigation of impacts due to permitted uses. (83b, Map 100)

c) This area is recommended as Class C to protect outstanding wilderness values, wildlife sensitive soils, scenic quality, and highly sensitive cultural values and Native American concerns. (83c, Map 100)

#### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Vidal Wash. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially the vegetation. Completion of the plan will be within 7 years. (W39, Map 101)

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Fenner/Chemehuevi Valleys. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially the desert tortoise. Completion of the plan will be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros, changes in livestock grazing practices and acquisition of private lands. (W35, Map 101)

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Chemehuevi Wash. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially vegetation, and to determine the possibility of reintroducing the American pronghorn antelope. Completion of the plan will be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros. (W37, Map 101)

4. Grazing Allotments. Chemehuevi Allotment. This proposed allotment was eliminated because of overriding wildlife values. (not mapped)

Lazy Daisy Allotment. This allotment will change the range designation from ephemeral/perennial to strictly ephemeral. Grazing will be limited to lower elevations away from highly critical tortoise habitat. (54, Map 101)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Area Management Plans are proposed.

6. Utility Corridors. Utility corridor "E" forms the western border of the planning unit. It follows an existing route, and is a portion of a regional network designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption. (E, Map 100)



7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There will be no exceptions to the multiple-use class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. One defined area of very high and three areas of high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are located within this planning unit. Numerous sites are recorded, including a village, temporary camps, rockshelters, rock art, rock alignments, hunting blinds, and historic sites. Major concentrations of these sites are located in the Turtle Mountains, mainly around springs.

2. Native American. Traditional Chemehuevi hunting and collecting areas are distributed throughout the planning unit. Village sites, associated with water sources, are scattered throughout the Turtle Mountains.

3. Wildlife. The desert tortoise is the only animal present on the BLM sensitive species list. Other important species include the golden eagle, and the prairie falcon. The Fenner-Chemehuevi desert tortoise habitat, Chemehuevi Wash, and Vidal Wash are all particularly important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation. The most interesting botanical feature in Planning Unit #83 is the wash vegetation with scattered crucifixion thorns within Chemehuevi Wash.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #83 contains Wilderness Study Area #307, the Turtle Mountains. It is rated #15 out of 137.

6. Grazing. None.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. Excellent hiking, backpacking, and rock and mineral collecting opportunities exist throughout the Turtle Mountains. Thirty percent of the planning unit has scenic quality rated "excellent". Major activities include rockhounding, camping, and four wheel drive and motorcycle touring.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. The central and southern Turtle Mountains contain several former mineral producers and occurrences. The Prosperity gold mine and the Horn copper mine are in this area. The Craig perlite deposit has been mined, but only for experimental purposes. The U.S. Geological Survey has classified Ward and Vidal Valleys as prospectively valuable for oil and gas. This may be part of the Overthrust Belt, a zone which has produced oil in neighboring states. At least a dozen unpatented mining claims have been located in this area.

PLANNING UNIT

83

CLASS C



CLASS L



CLASS M



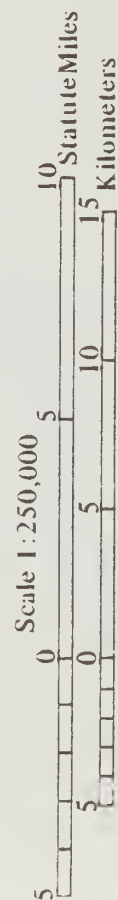
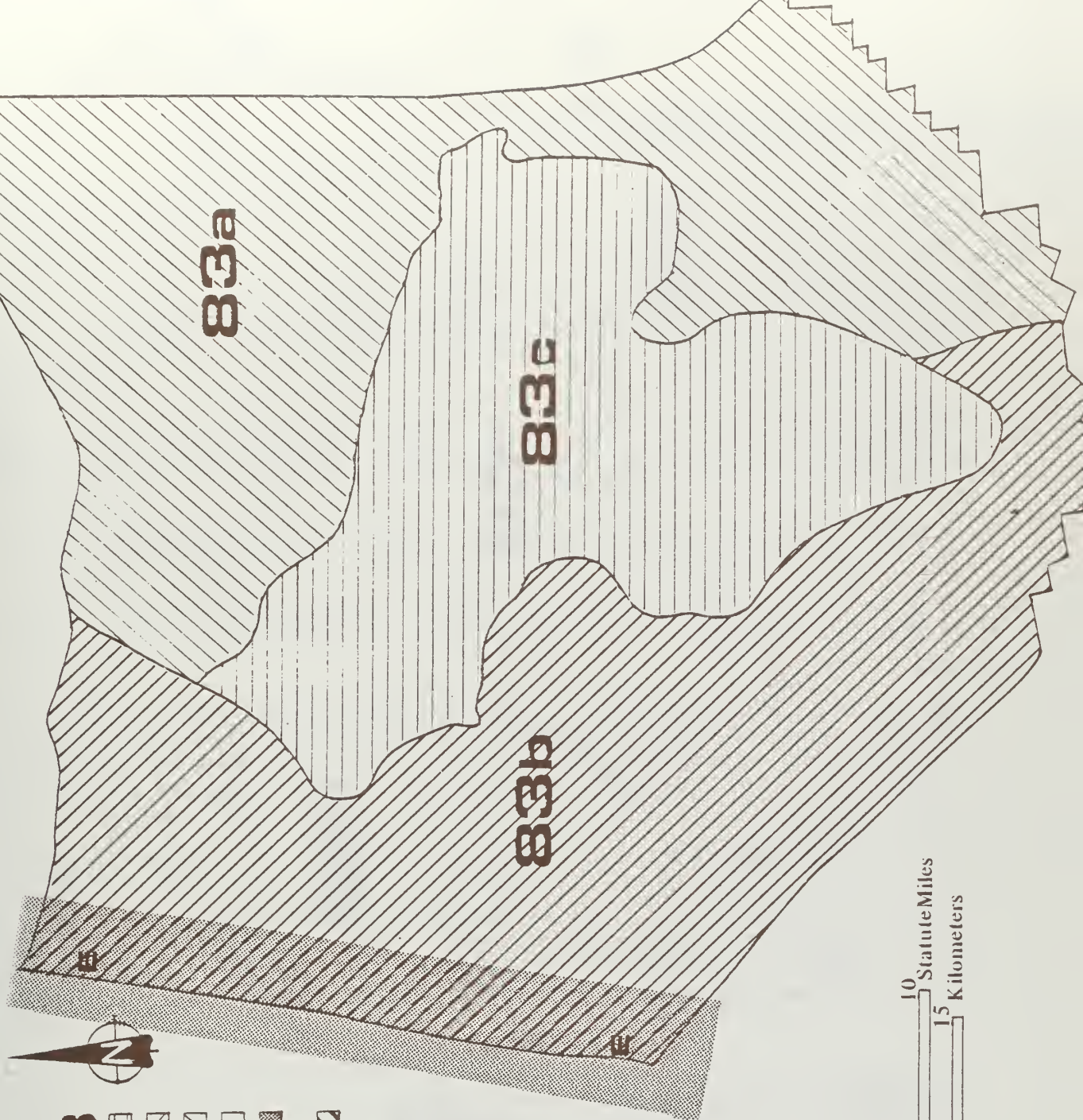
CLASS I



UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR



AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



# PLANNING UNIT **83**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **W-35,37,39**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **54**

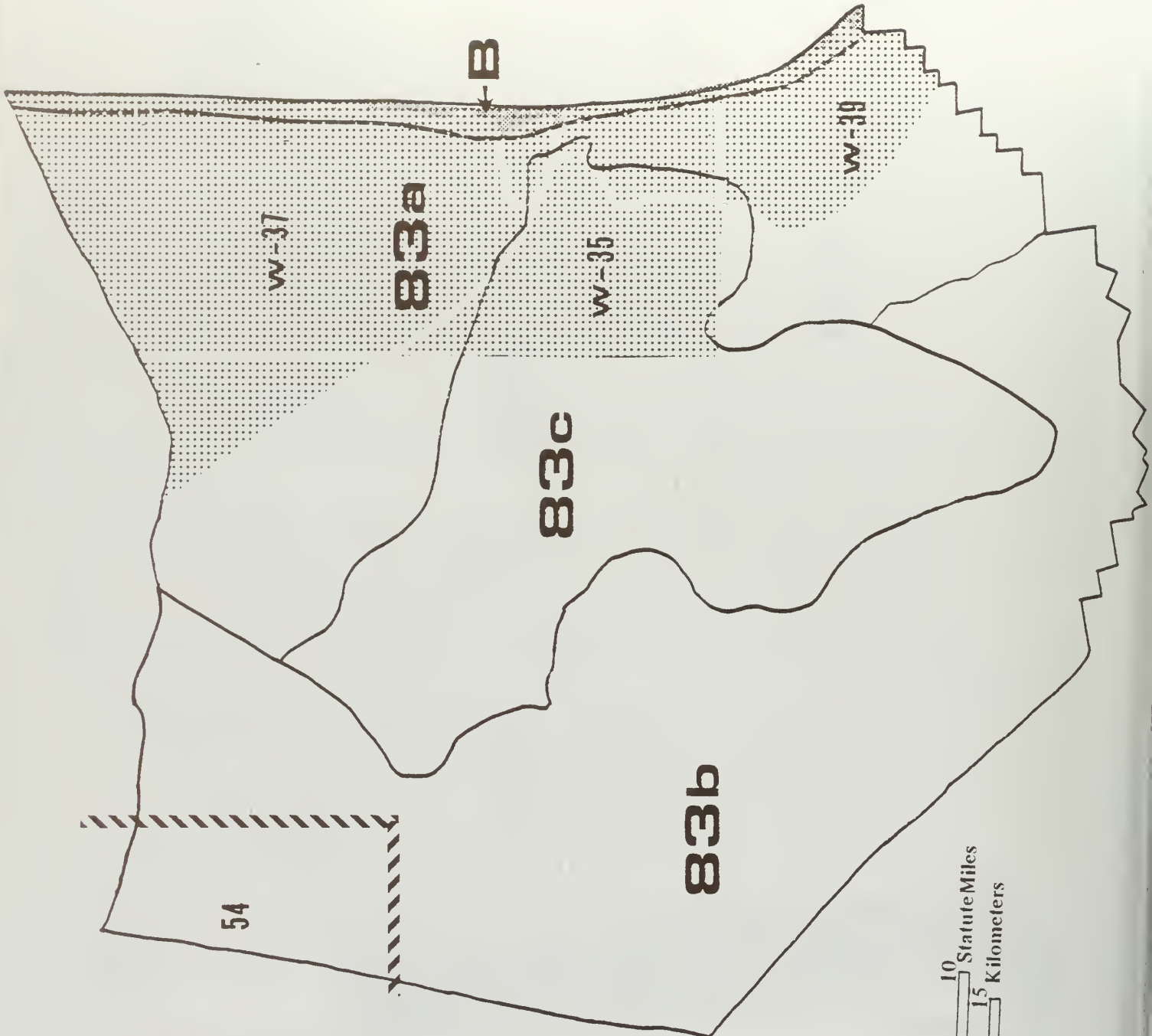
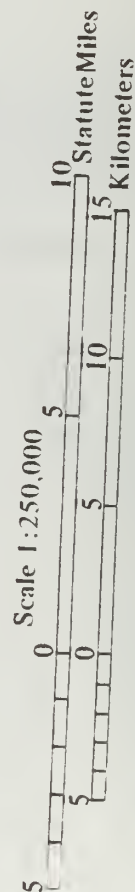
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED





## PLANNING UNIT #85

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, vegetative, scenic, cultural, and Native American values while providing access for management of grazing and burros and for mineral exploration and development. (85a, Map 102)

b) This portion of Planning Unit #85 is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife species and habitats, vegetation, and cultural resources, while allowing access for mineral exploration and recreation. (85b, Map 102)

c) This area is recommended as Class C because of its outstanding wilderness rating, sensitive wildlife and Native American values. (85 c, Map 102)

d) This area is recommended as Class L to protect natural and cultural resources while providing access for recreation and mineral exploration. (85d, Map 102)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #85 contains two Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. ACEC #49, Whitewater Canyon, will be protected for its wildlife habitat and Native American Values. (49, Map 102). ACEC #50, Big Morongo Canyon, will receive protection for its wildlife habitat. (50, Map 102)

3. Wildlife. No special wildlife management plans are proposed.

4. Grazing Allotments. Whitewater Canyon Allotment. This allotment will be changed from a perennial to an ephemeral/perennial designation. The authorized level of use will remain at 768 Animal Unit Months. Season of use is year long. The allotment management plan has a medium priority. (37, Map 103).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Morongo Herd Management Area. The management of wild burros in the Morongo Herd Management Area (HMA) will be discussed in the Law Desert Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The objective is to reduce the burro population from 25 to 16 animals. The priority of the HMAP is low and planned for completion by the end of Fiscal Year 1983. The HMAP will include monitoring of riparian areas. (M, Map 103)

6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor K (M) forms the southern boundary for Planning Unit #85. (K,M, Map 102)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple-use class guidelines.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Three known areas of high and one area of very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are located within this planning



unit. These occur at the mouths of Little Morongo, Mission, and Whitewater Canyons. Site types recorded include a village, temporary camps, and several trails. A cemetery is recorded near the mouth of Mission Creek; however, the exact location is unclear.

2. Native American. No areas of religious importance or secular concern were identified.

3. Wildlife. The only state or federally listed species present is the least Bell's vireo. The desert bighorn sheep is the only BLM sensitive species. Other important species are the golden eagle, prairie falcon, vermilion flycatcher, yellow-breasted chat, summer tanager, grey shrew, Townsend's big-eared bat, and mule deer. Whitewater Canyon and Big Morongo Canyon are particularly important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation. There were no special vegetation values identified.

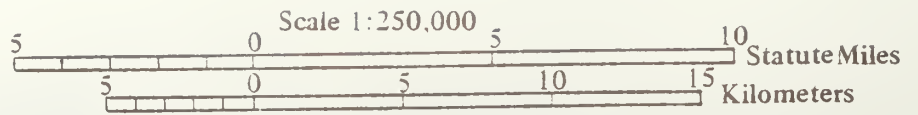
5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #85 contains two wilderness study areas. WSA #218, Morongo, is ranked #66 out of 137. WSA #218A, Whitewater, is ranked #10 out of 137. See Appendix III for details.

6. Grazing. The Whitewater Canyon Allotment range condition is good.

7. Wild Horse and Burro. Morongo Herd Management Area range condition is good. About 25 feral burros are present.

8. Recreation. Excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities can be found in Whitewater Canyon, and in the vicinity of Big Morongo Canyon. Big Morongo Canyon contains excellent opportunities for nature study and birdwatching. There are excellent hunting opportunities in Whitewater Canyon. Current activities include birdwatching, hiking, photography, nature study, hunting, and education and research.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Sand, gravel, and crushed rock are currently being produced in this planning unit, north of Interstate 10. There are two uranium occurrences and two gold occurrences in the southern part of the area. Silver has been found west of Yucca Valley. The U.S. Geology Survey classified the southern half of this planning unit as a potential geothermal resource area (PGRA), and the the southeast corner as prospectively valuable for oil and gas.



PLANNING UNIT

CLASS C

CLASS L

CLASS M

CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

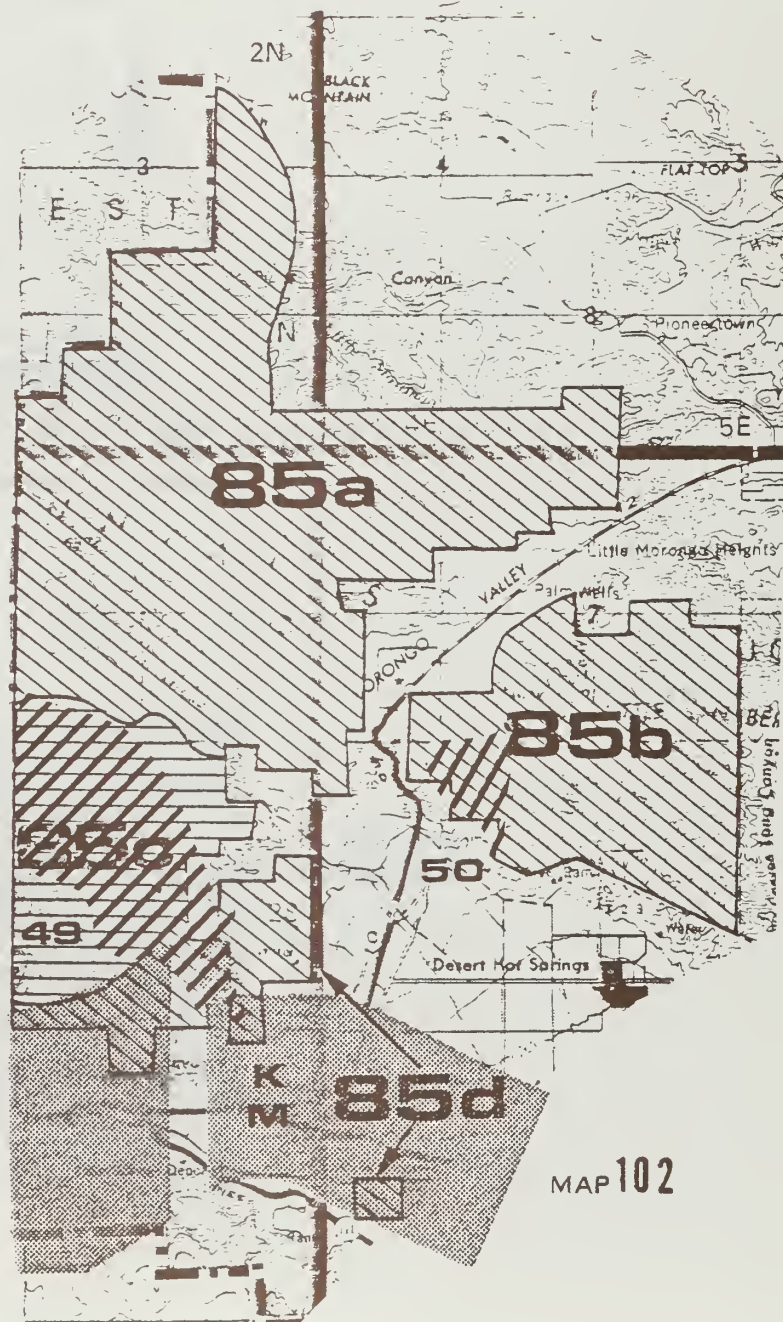
**85**

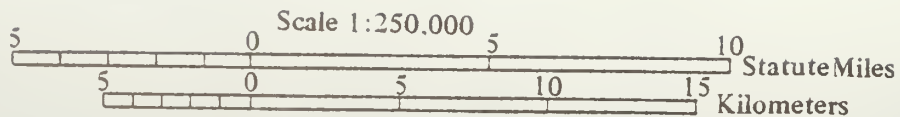


**K, M**



**49, 50**





PLANNING UNIT

HABITAT MGMT PLAN

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **M**

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **37, 71.**

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

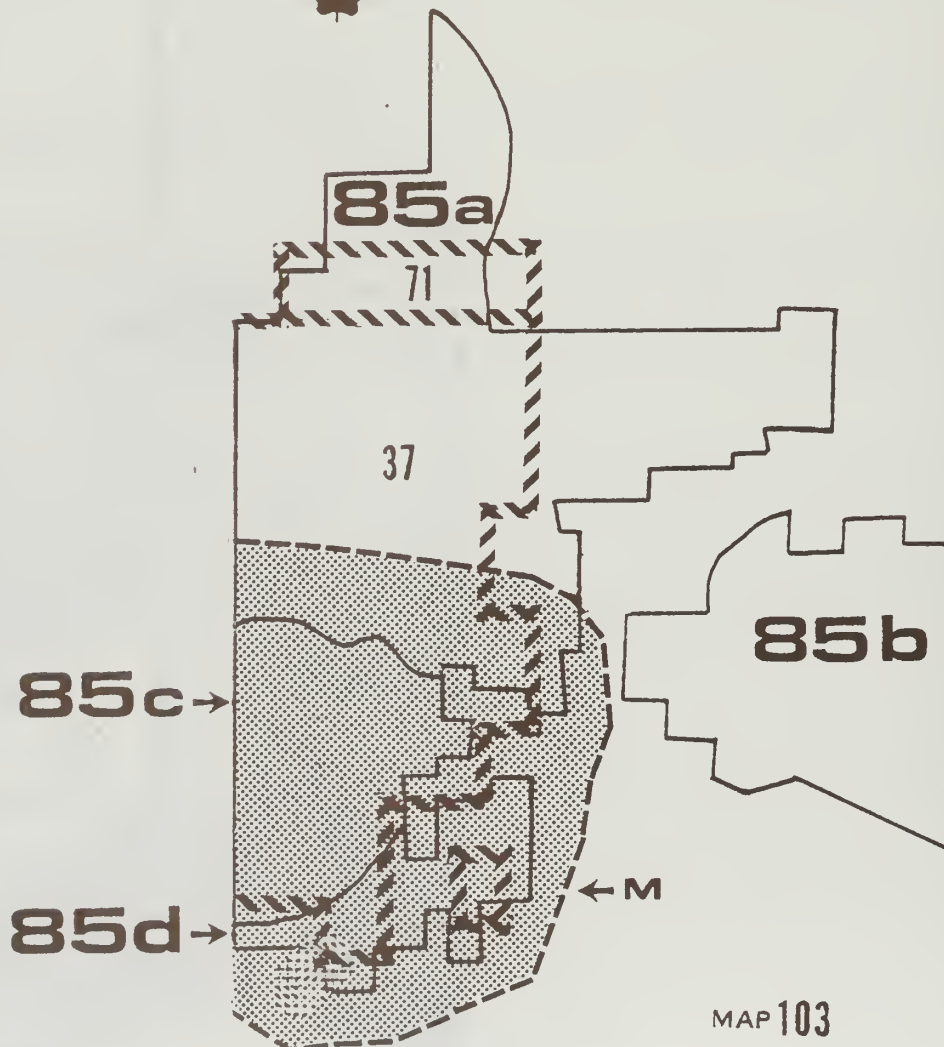
OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

IDENTIFIED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED

**85**



PLANNING UNIT #86

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class. No multiple use classes are recommended in this area; land tenure adjustment is proposed.
2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.
3. Wildlife. No special management plans are proposed.
4. Grazing Allotments. None.
5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Plans are proposed.
6. Utility Corridors. None.
7. Motorized Vehicle Access. Not applicable.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. CULTURAL. Most of this planning unit consists of private land. Few sites are known in this area. Exceptions to this are the regions around Goat Mountain and Emerson Lake, where sites recorded include rock art, temporary camps, and lithic scatters. Much of the area has been developed for residential use.
2. Native American. No areas of religious importance or areas of secular concern have been identified.
3. Wildlife. None identified.
4. Vegetation. None identified.
5. Wilderness. None.
6. Grazing. None.
7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.
8. Recreation. None identified.
9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. This area includes active sand and gravel producers north of Desert Hot Springs, where limestone and the famous mineral springs are also found. The U.S. Geology Survey has classified the area a Potential Geothermal Resource Area (PGRA). Two former copper mines, Cactus Hill and Indian are located just north of Desert Hot Springs.





## PLANNING UNIT #88

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class C. Its wilderness rating was high, and it shares a common border with National Park Service wilderness in Joshua Tree National Monument. This designation will also protect natural and cultural resources. (88a, Map 104)

b) and d) These areas are recommended as Class M because of low natural resource values and to provide vehicular access for recreationists and for mineral exploration. (88b, Map 104)

c) This area is recommended as Class L to protect natural, scenic, and cultural values while providing access for mineral exploration and recreation. (88c, Map 104)

#### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Coxcomb Mountains. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially desert bighorn sheep. Completion of this plan will be in 5 years. Long-term management will require protection of water sources. (W47, Map 105).

4. Grazing Allotments. Palen Allotment. This proposed Allotment may be leased for ephemeral use. The boundary was changed slightly because of wildlife concerns. (63, Map 105).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Areas are proposed.

6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor "E" crosses the Planning Unit. (E, Map 104) It follows an existing route, and is a portion of a regional system that is designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources Few cultural resources are known in this region, however, little survey work has been done. One area of known high cultural resource sensitivity is projected to exist. Some historic mining remains have been reported in the region.

2. Native American. No sites of religious importance, or of secular concern have been identified.

3. Wildlife. The desert tortoise, and the desert bighorn sheep are on the BLM sensitive species list. The only other important species is the prairie falcon.

4. Vegetation. No special vegetation values were identified.
5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #88 contains a portion of Wilderness Study Area #328, Coxcomb Mountain. It is rated #23 out of 137. Please see Appendix III for details.
6. Grazing. The Palen Allotment range condition is good.
7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.
8. Recreation. There are excellent opportunities for hiking and backpacking in the Coxcomb Mountains. 75% of the Planning Unit received an excellent rating for scenic quality. About 20 miles of State Highway 62 is eligible for designation as a State Scenic Highway.
9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. There is one gold occurrence east of Joshua Tree National Monument, and a radiometric uranium anomaly zone northeast of the Coxcomb Mountains.

#### PLANNING UNIT #89

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

##### 1. Multiple Use Class.

- a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife and cultural resources while providing access for recreation and mineral exploration. (89a, Map 104)
- b) This area is recommended as Class I to provide for the continuation and expansion of existing mining activities. (89b, Map 104)
- c) This area is recommended as Class C. It adjoins a designated Wilderness area in Joshua Tree National Monument. This designation would protect sensitive wildlife (desert tortoise and bighorn sheep) and three known areas of cultural sensitivity. (89c, Map 104)
- d) & g) These areas are recommended as Class M to provide for vehicular access for recreation and for mineral exploration and development while protecting desert resources by mitigation of impacts of permitted uses.
- e) This area is recommended Class L to provide continuity with Planning Unit #88 and to protect natural and cultural values while allowing access for recreation and mineral exploration. (89e, Map 104)

##### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Eagle Mountains. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially desert bighorn sheep. Completion of this plan will be in 5 years. Long-term management will require protection of water sources. (W46, Map 105)

The Chuckwalla Bench (desert tortoise crucial habitat) HMP is proposed with the objective of protecting and/or enhancing wildlife values of the area, especially the desert tortoise. Completion of the plan will be within five years. Long-term management will require the removal of wild horses and acquisition of private lands. (W52, Map 105)

4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Plans are proposed.

6. Utility Corridors. The Planning Unit is crossed by Utility Corridor E. (E, Map 104). Corridor K forms the southern border. (K, Map 104)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Four recognized areas of high and two of very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance occur within this planning unit. The most sensitive areas are the northern portion of the Eagle Mountains and the area around Hayfield Lake. Site types include temporary camps, rock art, lithic scatters, trails, a quarry, and historic mining remains. Some of these petroglyphs are quite rare, in that they occur on small boulders which could be easily carted away. While very little survey work has been done in this region, many additional sites surely exist.

2. Native American. No sites of religious importance or of secular concern were identified.

3. Wildlife. The desert tortoise, and desert bighorn sheep are BLM sensitive species. The only other important species is the prairie falcon.

4. Vegetation. Three sensitive plant species are present.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #89 contains two Wilderness Study Areas. WSA #334, Eagle Mountain, was ranked #35 out of 137. WSA #334A, Pinto Basin, was ranked #76 out of 137. See Appendix III.

6. Grazing. None.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. The upper Eagle Mountains offer excellent opportunities for hiking and backpacking. There is one site rated excellent for interpretation and education - the Eagle Mountain Iron Mine. Forty percent of the Planning Unit, is rated excellent for scenic quality. Major activities include sightseeing, four wheel drive play and touring, motorcycle play and touring, rockhounding, hobby prospecting, target shooting, and picnicking.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Planning Unit 89 surrounds the Eagle Mountain Iron Mine which is located on private land. This mine contains reserves of over 10,000,000 long tons. Past production has come from several mines in



this planning unit, including the Iron Chief, Cactus, and Mission Sweet gold mines, the Nancy copper mine, the Black Eagle lead-silver-zinc mine, and the Storm Jade gem mine. The Black Eagle Mine produced over \$200,000 worth of ore. A small quantity of roofing granules was produced from the Storm Sulphide mine. Limestone and silica also occur in this part of the planning unit. Approximately 184 patented claims and 458 unpatented claims are located in this area.

In the southeastern edge of the planning unit two mines produced a small amount of gold. The west end of Chuckwalla Valley has been determined by the U.S. Geology Survey to be prospectively valuable for sodium.

88,89

PLANNING UNIT

- CLASS C
- CLASS L
- CLASS M
- CLASS I
- UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR
- AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



PLANNING UNIT **88,89**

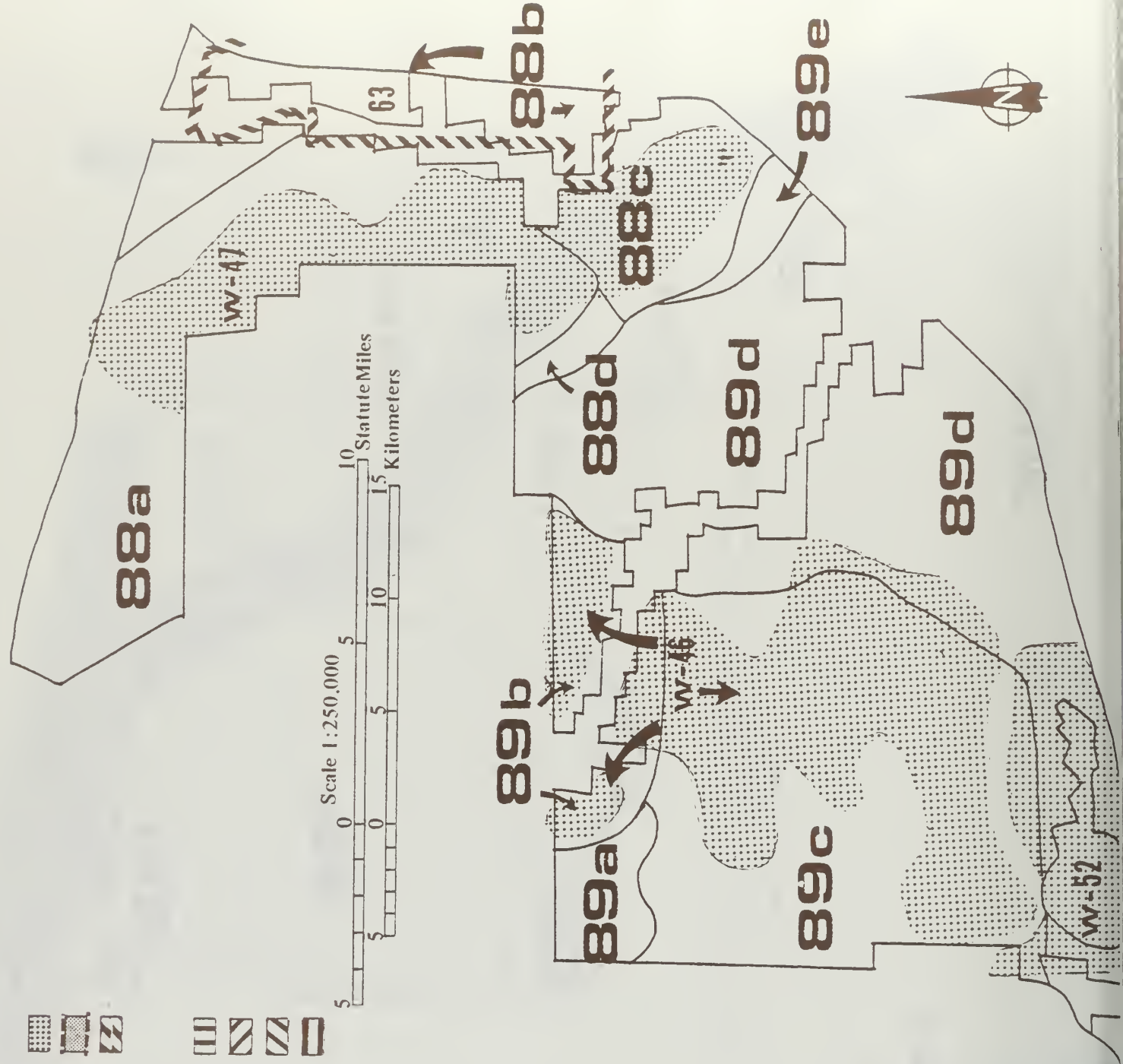
HABITAT MGMT PLAN **W46,47,52**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **63**

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

- OPEN
- APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL
- EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL
- CLOSED



## PLANNING UNIT #90

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, vegetative, scenic, and cultural resources and sensitive soils while providing access for grazing management (90a, Map 106).

b) This area is recommended as Class M to provide access for mineral exploration and development and vehicle-oriented recreation. Desert resources, including Native American values, will be protected by mitigating impacts of permitted uses. ACEC #s 54 and 55 will protect prehistoric sites (90b, Map 106).

c) This area is recommended as Class L to protect natural and cultural resources while allowing limited access for recreation (90b, Map 106).

d) This area is recommended as Class C to protect highly rated wilderness qualities, wildlife, vegetative, cultural and scenic resources (90d, Map 106).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #90 contains two proposed ACECs. ACEC #54, Sidewinder Well, will be protected for its prehistoric values (54, Map 106). ACEC #55, Palen Dry Lake, will also be protected for its prehistoric values (55, Map 106).

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Granite/Palen Mountain area. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially desert bighorn sheep. Completion of this plan will be in 5 years. Long-term management will require protection of water sources (W48, Map 107).

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Ford Dry Lake. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially migrating and wintering waterfowl. Completion of the plan will be within 5 years (W54, Map 107).

4. Grazing Allotments. Ford Dry Lake. This allotment remains as an ephemeral range type, but is now subject to 200 pounds/acre of dry annual vegetation before grazing turnout. The AMP is high priority. See Appendix XIII and the Livestock Element for further discussion (52, Map 107).

Ford Dry Lake Annex. This proposal would expand the present allotment. It would be designated as an ephemeral range and be subject to the 200 pound restriction (64, Map 107).

Palen Allotment. This proposed Allotment may be leased for ephemeral use. The boundary was changed slightly because of wildlife concerns (63, Map 107).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Plans are Proposed.



6. Utility Corridors. Planning Unit #90 is bounded on the south by Utility Corridor "K" (K, Map 107). Corridor E touches the northeast tip of the planning unit (E, Map 107). It is along an existing route, and is a portion of a regional network designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are two exceptions to the Multiple Use Class guidelines for vehicle access in Planning Unit #90. ACEC #54, Sidewinder Well which occurs in an area of existing routes of travel, will be closed to vehicle access to protect prehistoric values (1, Map 107). ACEC #55, Palen Dry Lake, also in an area of existing routes of travel, will be managed for approved routes of travel to protect cultural resources (2, Map 107).

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Several known areas of high and one area of very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are located within this planning unit. Specific locations of high sensitivity are Ford Dry Lake, Palen Dry Lake, and the Palen Pass vicinity. The Sidewinder Well area is of very high sensitivity/significance. Recorded sites include temporary camps, trails, rock art, lithic scatters, pottery, and historic remains.

2. Native American. Planning Unit #90 contains a traditional Cahuilla occupation site, and several Cahuilla trails.

3. Wildlife. The desert tortoise, and the desert bighorn sheep are on the BLM Sensitive Species list. The only other important species is the prairie falcon. The Midland Ironwood thicket, Ford Dry Lake, and the Granite Mountains are important to wildlife.

4. Vegetation. Planning Unit #90 contains an unusual plant assemblage, the Palen Pass ironwood stand. There is also a small stand of Crucifixion Thorn.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #90 contains a portion of Wilderness Study Area #325, Palen/McCoy. It is ranked #33 out of 137. Please see Appendix III.

6. Grazing. None

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None

8. Recreation. There is one site rated excellent for interpretation and education, the Desert Lily Garden. Major activities include camping, four wheel drive and motorcycle touring and play, rockhounding, and sightseeing.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral. This planning unit contains an active though intermittent talc/pyrophyllite mine in the southwestern Palen Mountains. Active exploration for silver and copper is currently taking place in an area of high potential in the central Palens. Manganese has been produced from the northern Palens and also occurs in the western part of these mountains. The Palen Pass area has identified resources of gypsum, as well as occurrences of fluorspar, limestone, and copper. At the south end of the Palens, there is a

high-grade iron deposit, and a large deposit of clay. The planning unit contains part of the Ford Dry Lake Known Geothermal Resource Area, and the U.S. Geological Survey has classified most of the Ford and Palen Dry Lakes areas as Potential Geothermal Resource Areas. The U.S. Geological Survey has also classified the Ford and Palen Dry Lake areas as prospectively valuable for sodium and potassium, and has classified the alluvial area north of the Granite Mountains as prospectively valuable for oil and gas. The planning unit is currently undergoing exploration for geothermal resources and regional exploration for oil and gas. The planning unit contains 43 unpatented mining claims, plus more than 25 unpatented mining claims.



PLANNING UNIT

CLASS C

CLASS L

CLASS M

CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

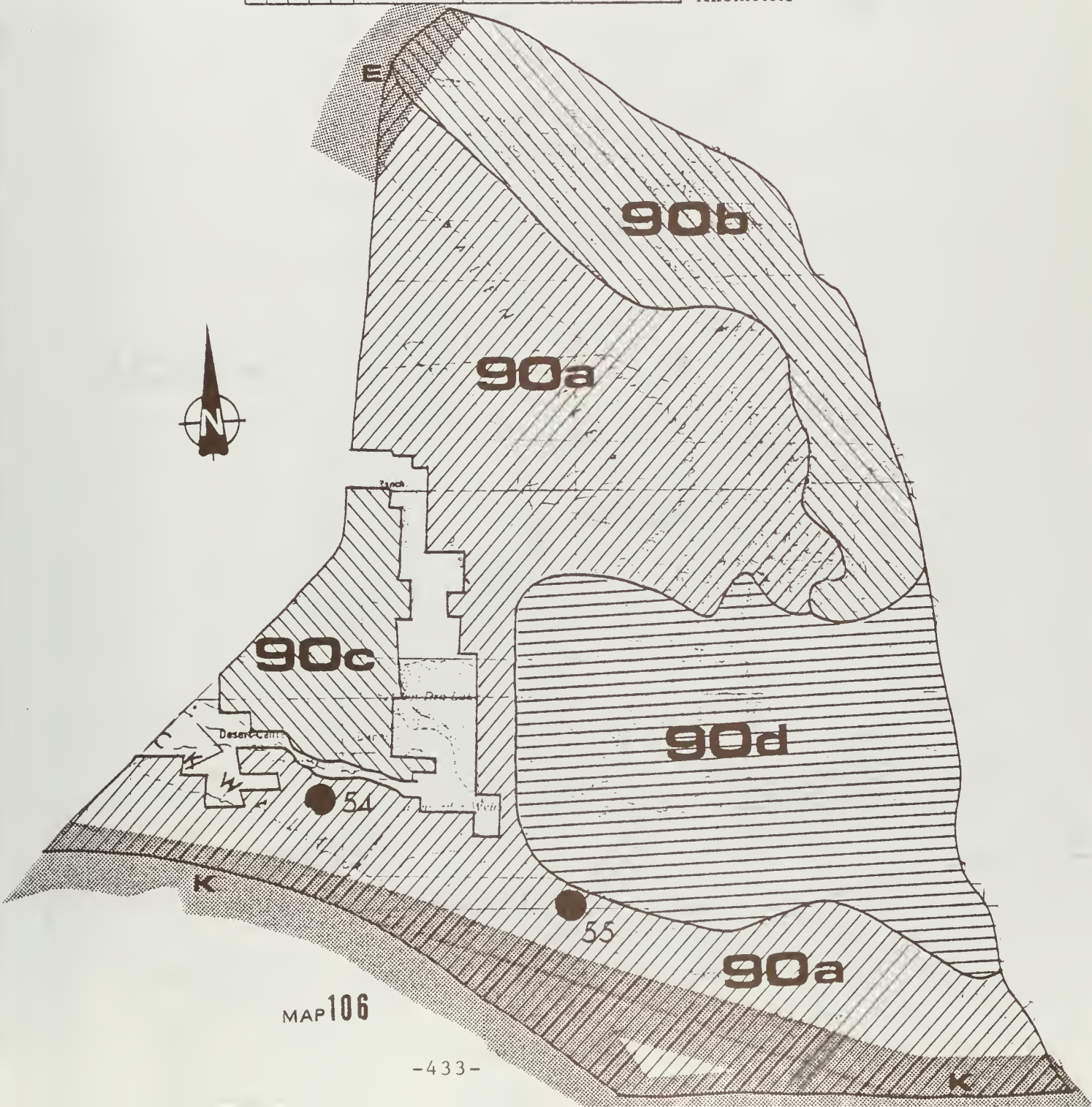
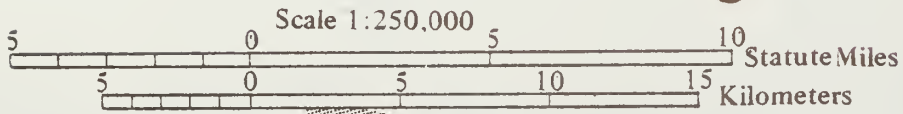
90



E,K

54

55





PLANNING UNIT **90**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **w-48,w-54.** 

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN 

GRAZING ALLOTMENT **52,63,64.** 

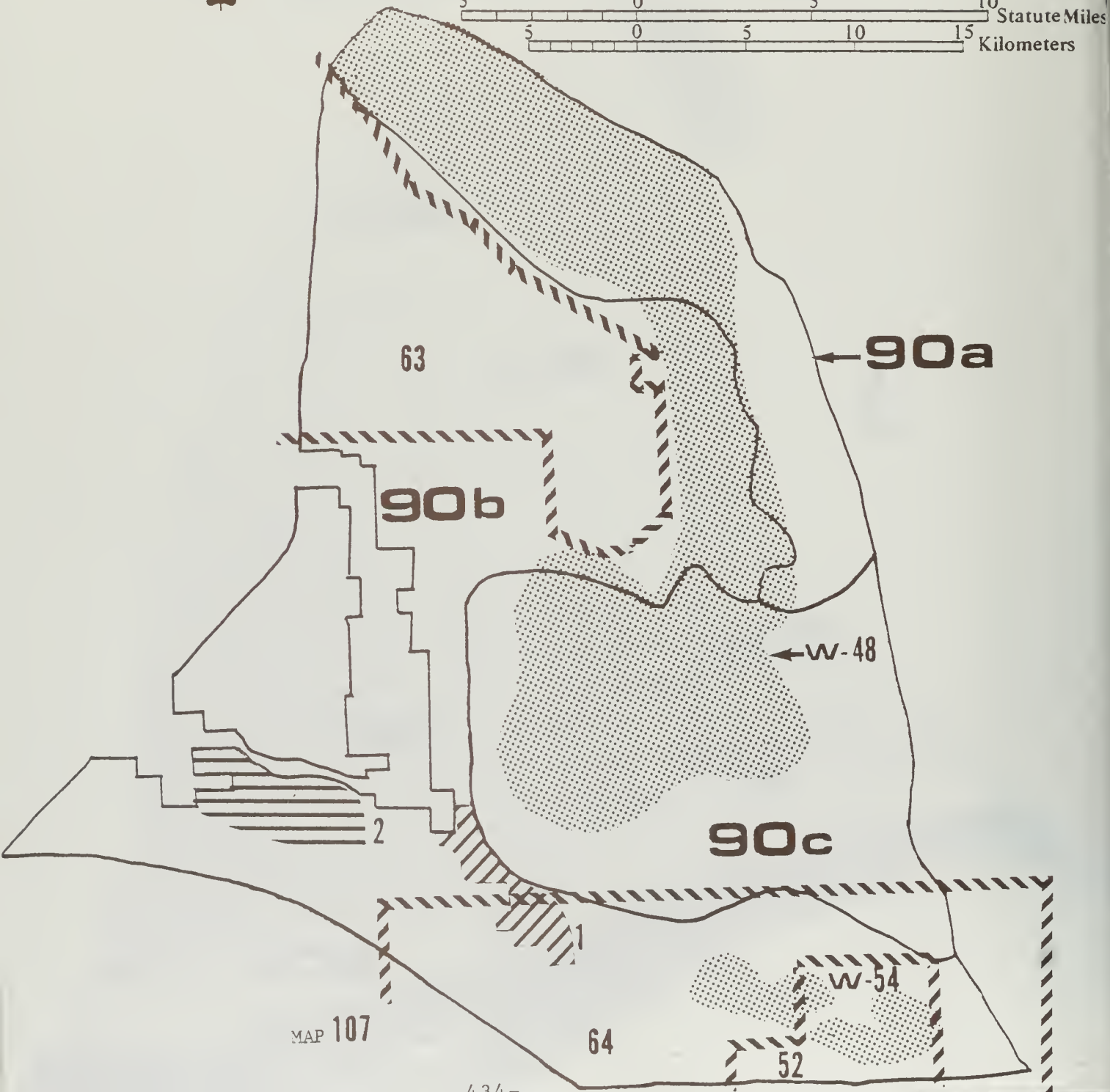
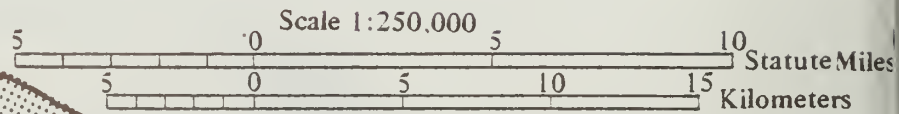
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN 

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL 

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL 

CLOSED 



PLANNING UNIT #91

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class (by sub area)

a) This area is recommended as Class M to provide access for mineral exploration and recreation, while protecting desert resources by mitigating impacts of permitted uses (91a, Map 108).

b) This area is recommended as Class L to protect vegetative resources and wildlife habitat in McCoy Wash, and also to protect Native American values, while providing access for recreation and mineral exploration (91b, Map 108).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for McCoy Wash. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially the wash associated vegetation. Completion of this plan is to be within 7 years (W51, Map 109).

4. Grazing Allotments. Rice Valley Allotment. This proposed Allotment may be leased for ephemeral use. The boundary was changed slightly because of wildlife concerns (62, Map 109).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Area Plans are proposed.

6. Utility Corridors. None.

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple-use class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Three known areas of high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are located within this planning unit, in the Little Maria and Arica Mountains. Recorded site types include temporary camps, trails, and historic remains. Much of this planning unit has not been systematically surveyed and a high potential exists for additional sites to occur.

2. Native American. There are several cremation sites and temporary camps that are important to the Mohave.

3. Wildlife. The only BLM sensitive species present is the desert bighorn sheep. Other important species are the prairie falcon and mule deer. McCoy Wash and the Midland Ironwood thicket are of particular importance to wildlife.

4. Vegetation. No special vegetation values were identified.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #91 contains a portion of Wilderness Study Area #325, Palen/McCoy. It is rated #33 out of 137. See Appendix III.

6. Grazing. None.

7. Wild Horse and Burro. None.

8. Recreation. There are excellent hiking opportunities in the bajada north of the McCoy Mountains. About 20 miles of State Highway 62 is eligible for designation as a state scenic highway. Major activities include sightseeing, camping, picnicking, rockhounding, and four wheel drive touring.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral. There is a current producer of gypsum in the southern Little Maria Mountains, an area of large past production of gypsum from the Midland Mines. Between 1912 and 1950, mines in the Arica Mountains produced more than 1,200 short tons of ore that yielded at least 1,100 ounces of gold, 534 ounces of silver, 6,911 pounds of copper, and 920 pounds of lead from 1,200 tons of ore. Manganese was produced from the southern Little Marias prior to 1960. Fluorspar of optical grade was produced near Mohave Tank in 1944-45. Numerous mineral occurrences of manganese, copper, gold, lead, silver, gypsum, and limestone are reported in this planning unit. The U.S. Geological Survey has classified most of Rice Valley and McCoy Wash as prospectively valuable for oil and gas. This planning area contains 89 patented and about 40 unpatented mining claims.

#### PLANNING UNIT #92

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

###### 1. Multiple Use Class

a) This area is recommended as Class C to protect its wilderness characteristics and natural and cultural values (92a, Map 108).

b) The major part of the planning unit is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, vegetation, soils, scenic quality, cultural, and Native American values, while providing access for recreation, grazing management, and mineral exploration and development (92b, Map 108).

c) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for recreational access and for mineral exploration and development (92c, Map 108).

###### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for McCoy Wash. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values in McCoy Wash, especially the wash-associated vegetation. Completion of this plan is to be within 7 years (W51, Map 109).

4. Grazing Allotments. Ford Dry Lake Extension. This proposed allotment expansion would enlarge the present lease. It would also be designated ephemeral, and would be subject to the same 200 pound restriction. Some slight boundary changes have occurred because of crucial desert tortoise habitat (64, Map 109).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Area Management Plans are proposed.

6. Utility Corridors. Planning Unit #92 is bounded on the south by utility corridor K and on the east by corridor J (K, J, Map 108).

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple-use class guidelines.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Two known areas of very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are located within this planning unit. These zones are located at springs and in the southern portion of the McCoy Mountains. Site types recorded include temporary camps, rock art, lithics, sherd scatters, and trails.

2. Native American. A Mohave sacred area is located in this unit.

3. Wildlife. The only BLM sensitive species present are the desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep. Other important species include the prairie falcon, pallid bat, and mule deer. McCoy Wash and the Midland Ironwood Thicket are particularly important to wildlife.

4. Vegetation. One sensitive plant species is present.

5. Wilderness. None.

6. Grazing. The Ford Dry Lake Allotment range condition is good.

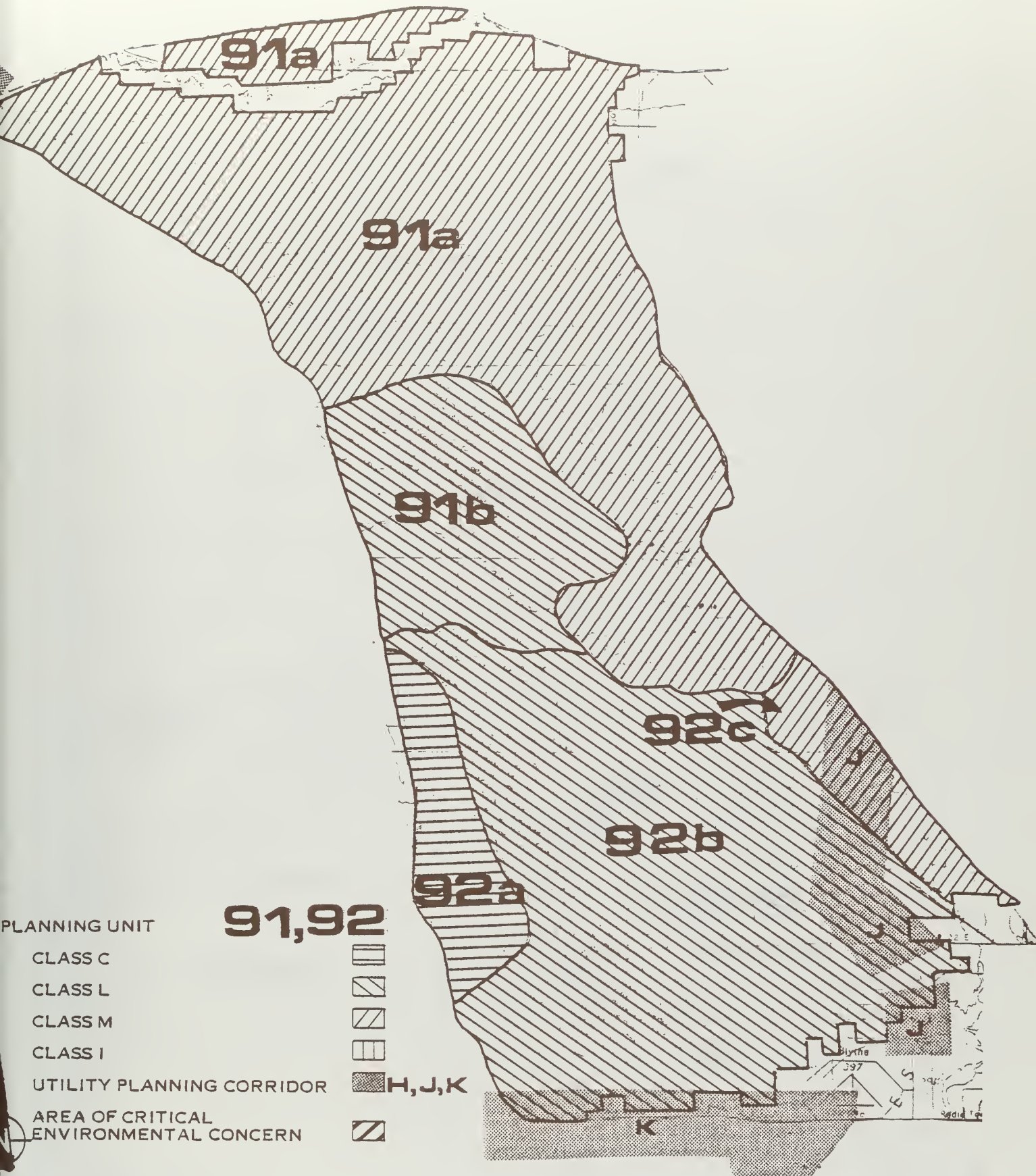
7. Wild Horse and Burro. None.

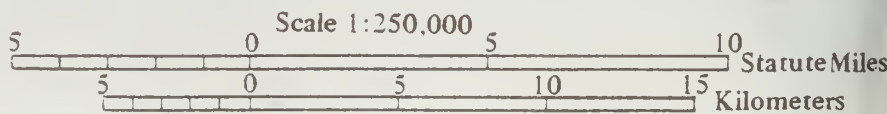
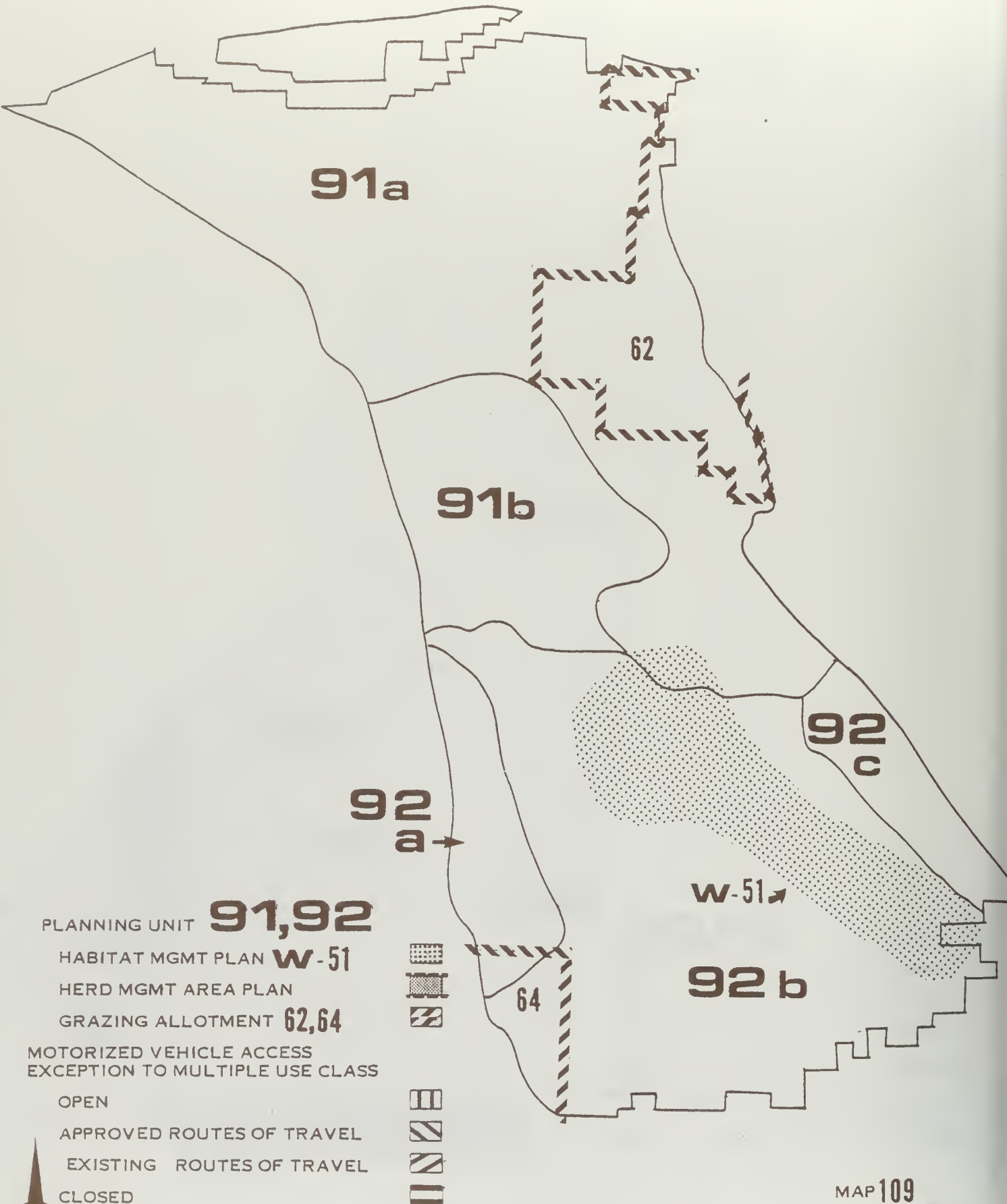
8. Recreation. Excellent opportunities for hiking and backpacking can be found in McCoy Valley. McCoy Wash offers excellent dove hunting. Current activities include sightseeing, camping, picnicking, rockhounding, and four-wheel drive access.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral. This planning unit contains two of the CDCA's major past producers of uranium, in the southern McCoy Mountains. This area is under current active exploration, and has high potential for uranium. The northern part of the McCoys contain about 10 past producers of manganese that operated intermittently from 1918 to 1977. This area was the source of a large portion of the total CDCA manganese production. Also in the northern McCoys, the St. John Mine has produced copper. The south end of the McCoys has high potential for uranium, and the north end has high potential for copper and manganese. The area contains part of the Ford Dry Lake Known Geothermal Resource Area and the U.S. Geological Survey has classified much of the south part of the planning area as a Potential Geothermal Resource Area. The USGS has also classified Ford Dry Lake as prospectively valuable for sodium and potassium, and has classified McCoy Wash as prospectively valuable for oil and gas. The planning unit contains about 726 unpatented mining claims.









## PLANNING UNIT #93

### A. DECISION RATIONALE

#### 1. Multiple Use Class

a) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for mineral exploration and development (93a, Map 110).

b) This area is recommended as Class L to protect an important wildlife habitat, the Vidal Wash and Valley, an area rich in ironwood and Palo Verde trees. This multiple-use class permits limited access for recreation and mineral exploration (93b, Map 110).

c) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for mineral exploration and development and for recreation. Sensitive desert resources will be protected by mitigation of impacts of permitted uses (93c, Map 110).

d) This area is recommended as Class L to protect natural and cultural resources while providing access for mineral exploration and recreation (93d, Map 110).

#### 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. There are two Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) within this planning unit. The wildlife habitat management objective for Vidal Wash is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially the stand of wash vegetation (W39, Map 111). The objective of the Rice Valley Dunes HMP is to protect the wildlife values, especially endemic beetles (W50, Map 111). Completion of both HMPs will be within seven years.

4. Grazing Allotments. The Rice Valley Allotment is within this Planning Unit. This proposed allotment may be leased for ephemeral use. The boundary of this allotment was modified slightly due to wildlife concerns. See part four of the Livestock Grazing Appendix for additional information concerning this allotment (62, Map 111).

5. Wild Horses and Burros. The Chemehuevi Herd Management Area (HMA) is within this Planning Unit. The wild burro population will be reduced from 1,200 to 500 animals. The Colorado River Herd management Area Plan (HMAP) which covers the Chemehuevi HMA is a medium priority HMAP and will be completed by the BLM Yuma District by the end of Fiscal Year 1980 (B, Map 111).

6. Utility Corridors. Planning Unit #93 is crossed by utility corridor "J". It follows an existing corridor, and is a portion of a regional network of power sources with areas of power consumption (J, Map 110).

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple-use class guidelines.

### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Several known areas of high and one area of very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are located within this planning unit. All of these areas are located in the western portion of the planning unit, in and



near the Big Maria Mountains. Site types recorded include intaglios, lithics, temporary camps, sherd scatters, trails, and historic mining remains.

2. Native American. This area is identified in Mohave myth and historically was occupied by the Chemehuevis. Many regional and specific sites of ritual association and collection areas are currently important to the Mohave and Chemehuevi.

3. Wildlife. No federal or state-listed species are within the planning unit. The desert tortoise and the desert bighorn, which are BLM sensitive species are present. Other important wildlife species found within this planning unit include the Brazilian free-tailed bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, prairie falcon, endemic dune beetles, leaf-nosed bat, big brown bat and mule deer. The Rice Valley Dunes is a unique wildlife habitat; the Vidal Wash is a representative habitat within this Planning Unit.

4. Vegetation. One sensitive plant species of cactus is contained within this planning unit.

5. Wildernss. Planning Unit #93 contains two Wilderness Study Areas: The Big Maria Mountain WSA, #321, is rated 78 out of 137; the Rice Valley WSA, #332, is rated 90 out of 137.

6. Grazing. The Rice Valley Allotment range condition is good.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. The Chemehuevi Herd Management Area range condition is fair. There are approximately 1,200 wild burros present.

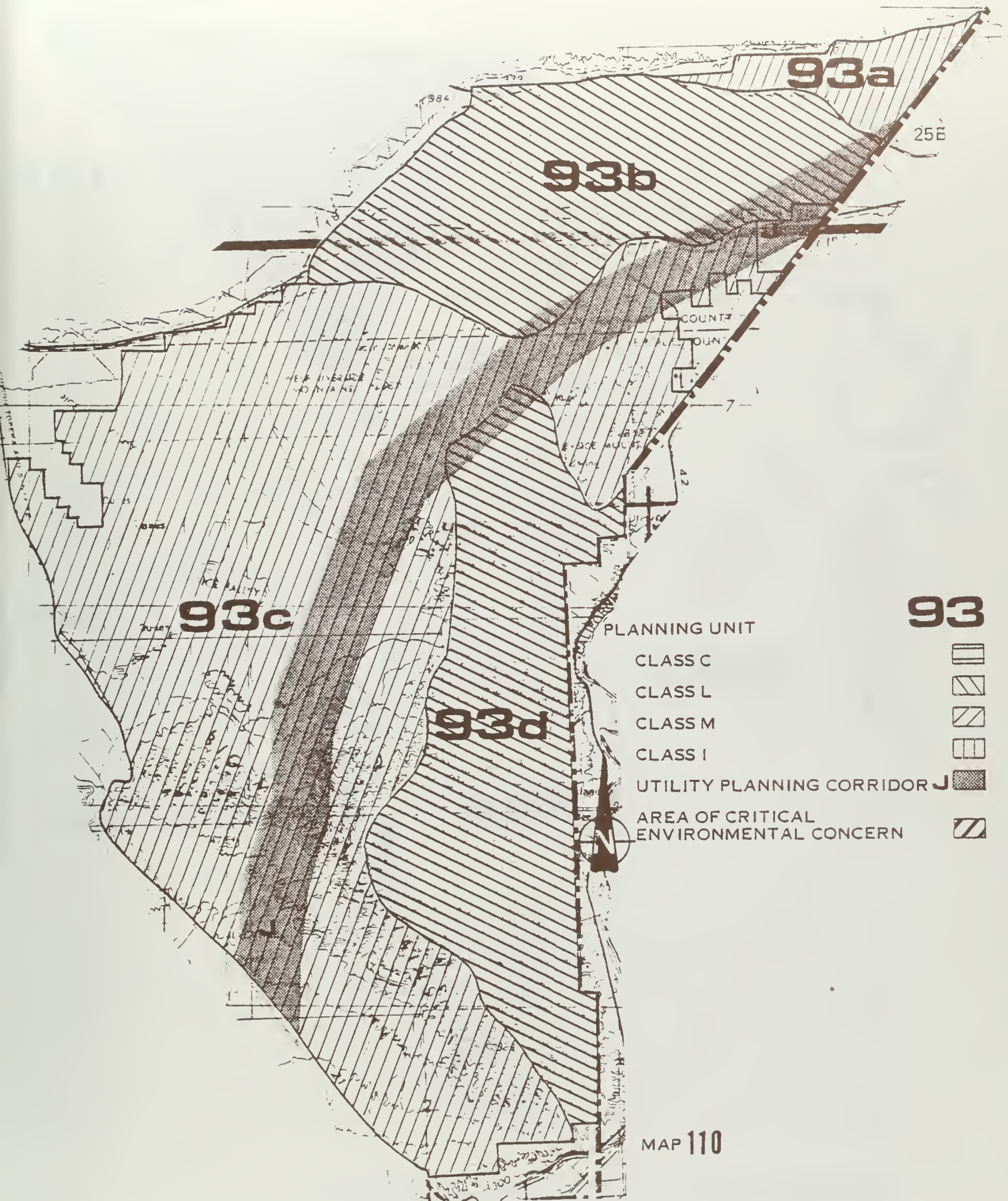
8. Recreation. The Big Maria Mountains offer excellent opportunities for hiking, and backpacking. Twenty-five percent of the planning unit was rated excellent for scenic quality. Current activities include sightseeing, picnicking, camping, rockhounding, and four-wheel drive access.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral. Sand and gravel are currently being quarried at the south end of the Big Maria Mountains. During 1950-51 the Bald Eagle Mine in the Big Maria's produced 137 tons of ore yielding one ounce of gold, 1,576 ounces of silver, 108 pounds of copper, 68,337 pounds of lead, and 1,901 pounds of zinc. Reserves of wollastonite and limestone and occurrences of silver, gold, copper, and uranium are reported in the Big Marias.

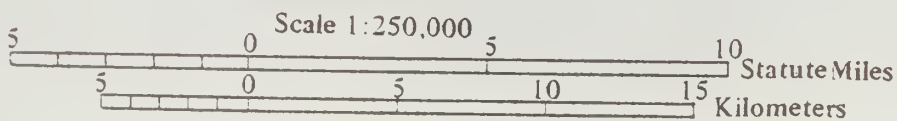
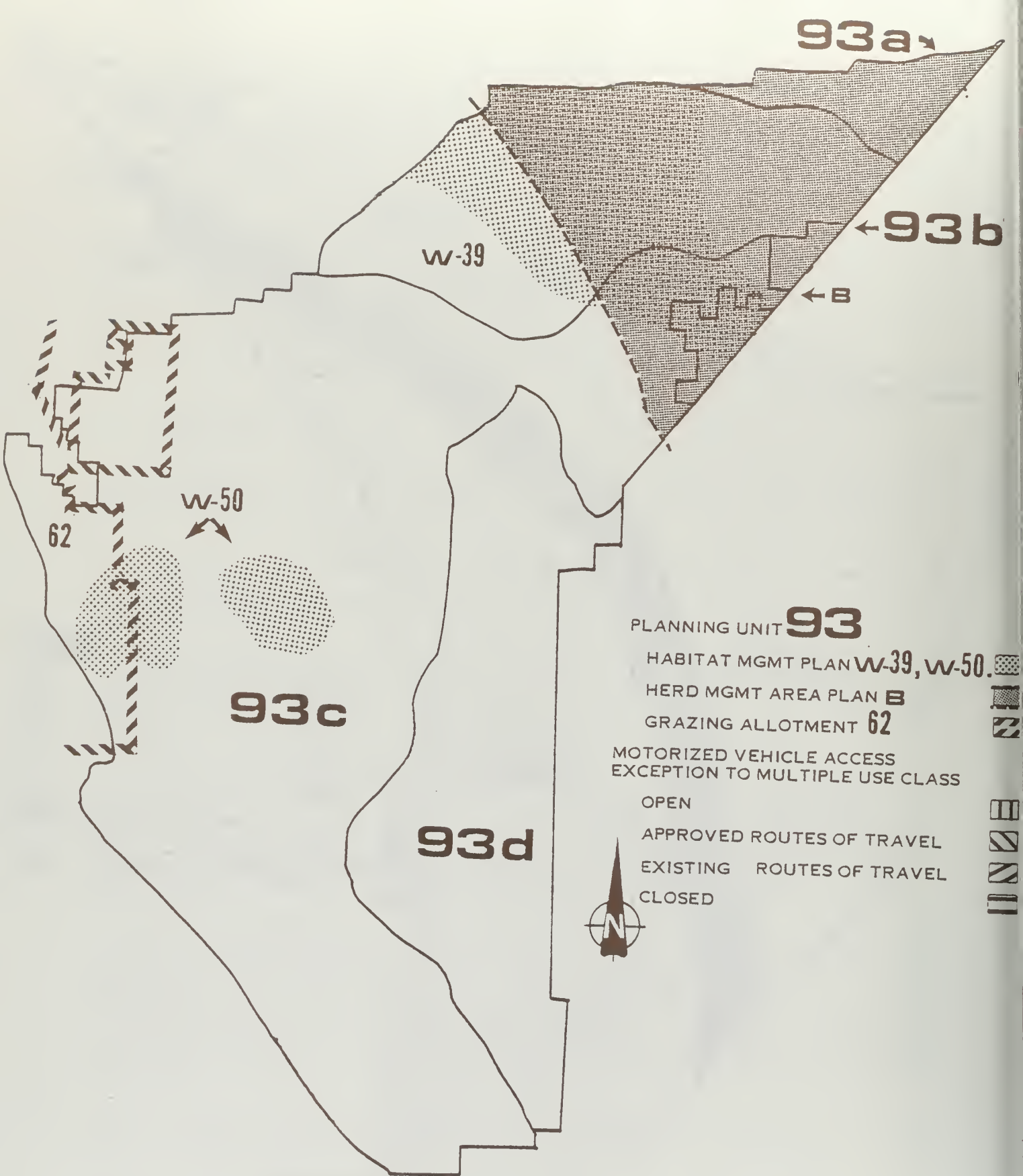
In the Riverside Mountains between 1898 and 1957 more than six mines produced at least 21,822 short tons of ore yielding at least 3,116 ounces of gold, 126 ounces of silver and 33,812 pounds of copper. Several small mines, particularly in the Riversides, produced an unrecorded amount of ore. There are numerous occurrences of copper, gold, and silver in these mountains. Sand and gravel and rock have been mined from the east side of these mountains. Lead, silver, gold, zinc, and copper are also found in the West Riverside Mountains.

Vidal and Rice Valleys are classified as "prospectively valuable" for oil and gas by the USGS. Clay was mined just south of Vidal.

The planning area contains at least 28 patented and 42 unpatented mining claims.







MAP 111

PLANNING UNIT #94

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class

a) & c) These areas are recommended as Class L to protect officially listed wildlife species, sensitive and unique vegetation, high scenic quality, sensitive soils, high Native American values, and very high cultural values, including National Register sites. This classification provides access for wild horse and burro management, mineral exploration, and recreation (94a, Map 112).

b) This area is recommended as Class C because of its outstanding wilderness qualities and high content of natural and cultural resources (94b, Map 112).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None

3. Wildlife Management. The Santa Rosa Mountains Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (in progress) has a management objective to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially the peninsular bighorn sheep and desert slender salamander. Long-term management will require acquisition of private lands and protection of water sources (W44, Map 113).

4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. The Palm Canyon Herd Management Area (HMA) will be included in the Low Desert Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The objective is to remove all horses, because of archaeological and Native American concerns. The HMAP has low priority and is scheduled for completion by the end of Fiscal Year 1983 (N. Map 113).

6. Utility Corridors. None,

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple-use class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Over 75 percent of this planning unit is covered by identified high and very high zones of cultural resources sensitivity/significance. A full range of site types are represented here, including villages, temporary camps, rock art, lithics, pottery, rockshelters, roasting pits, and numerous historic remains. Due to the difficulty of access, many of these sites are in excellent condition. Overall, resources present in this planning unit are highly significant, with excellent potential for academic research.

2. Native American. Within this area are many village sites and occupation areas used by the Cahuilla. Such sites are of current importance, according to Native American consultants.

3. Wildlife. The desert slender salamander and the peninsular bighorn sheep are federally and state-listed species. This planning unit is within the



habitat range of the flat-tailed horned lizard, a BLM sensitive species. The prairie falcon, grey shrew, little pocket mouse, mule deer, golden eagle, and the summer tanager are other significant species within this area.

4. Vegetation. Four sensitive plant species are included within this planning unit, as well as numerous palm groves associated with riparian areas.

5. Wilderness. The Santa Rosa Mountains Wilderness Study Area (341) is within Planning Unit #94, and rated 4 out of 137.

6. Grazing. None.

7. Wild Horse and Burro. The range condition of the Palm Canyon Herd Management Area is good. The Coyote Canyon HMA range condition is fair.

8. Recreational. Excellent hiking opportunities are found in the Haystack Mountain/Dead Indian Creek/Deep Canyon area. Excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities exist in the canyons of the Santa Rosa Mountains. Excellent birdwatching/wildlife viewing opportunities exist along Dead Indian Creek, Palm Canyon and Deep Canyon. The area contains seven highly rated interpretive sites (Dead Indian Canyon, Deep Canyon, Palm Springs, Palm Canyon, Palm to Pines Highway, Valerie Jean Beachline, and Whitewater Canyon. The entire area has excellent scenic qualities. Fifteen miles of State Route 74 are designated a scenic highway. Major activities include hang gliding, hiking, sightseeing, motorcycle play and dunebuggy touring.

9. Geology-Energy-Mineral. Tungsten, asbestos, limestone, dolomite, and possibly marble occur in this planning area. Limestone and dolomite occur in Palm Canyon. Farther south, near Pinyon Flat, these commodities along with silica and feldspar are known to occur west of the CDCA boundary and probably extend continuously into the CDCA. Tungsten has been found west of Rancho Mirage, west of Palm Canyon and also northeast of Cottonwood Spring. Small amounts of tungsten may have been produced from this planning unit and there is potential for future discoveries of tungsten minerals here. Asbestos has been produced near Asbestos Mountain. Although the deposit extends into the CDCA, most of the development has occurred south of the CDCA boundary.

#### PLANNING UNIT #95

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class. Planning Unit 95 is recommended as Class L to protect the habitat of the sensitive Coachella Valley Fringe-toed lizard (95, Map 112).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife Management. The Coachella Valley wildlife Habitat Management Plan has the objective of protecting and enhancing wildlife values in the scattered parcels of public land in the Coachella Valley, especially habitat for the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard and Coachella round-tailed ground squirrel. Completion of the Wildlife Management Plan is to be within 2 years. Long-term management will require acquisition of private lands (W42, Map 113).

4. Grazing Allotments. None.
5. Wild Horse and Burro. There are no proposed Herd Management Area Plans.
6. Utility Corridors. None.
7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple-use class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Few archaeological sites have been recorded in this area. One aboriginal trail and a temporary camp are known in the vicinity. A zone of very high cultural resources sensitivity/significance is located just north of this unit.
2. Native American. No values of traditional religious concern, or secular importance to Native Americans have been identified.
3. Wildlife. The Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, a federally and state-listed species, is present within the unit. The flat-tailed horned lizard, a BLM sensitive species, is also found within the area. The golden eagle, Coachella Valley round-tailed ground squirrel, prairie falcon and little pocket mouse also occur in this planning unit.
4. Vegetation. No sensitive plant species are found.
5. Wilderness. None.
6. Grazing. None.
7. Wild Horse and Burro. None.
8. Recreation. Excellent birdwatching and wildlife viewing are found along the south slopes of the Indio Hills, and in Chino Canyon. The area contains three highly rated interpretive sites (Devil's Garden, Indio Hills, and Seismic Alkali Sink) and four heavily used educational/research locations (Thousand Palms Oasis, Palm Springs, Palm Desert and Indio). Ten miles of State Route 74 is a State Scenic Route with 40 miles of major activities include motorcycle play/touring, 4 wheel drive play/touring, camping, hang gliding, horseback riding, picnicking, target shooting and sightseeing.
9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Geologic resources of this area are primarily sand, gravel, and geothermal resources. There is also potential for uranium in the Indio Hills. This planning unit contains four former sand and gravel producers and one present producer. Geothermal resources are indicated by a hot spring and a hot water well on the east flanks of the Indio Hills. The planning unit has been classified as prospectively valuable for geothermal energy, and for oil and gas by the U.S. Geological Survey.





PLANNING UNIT

94,95

CLASS C

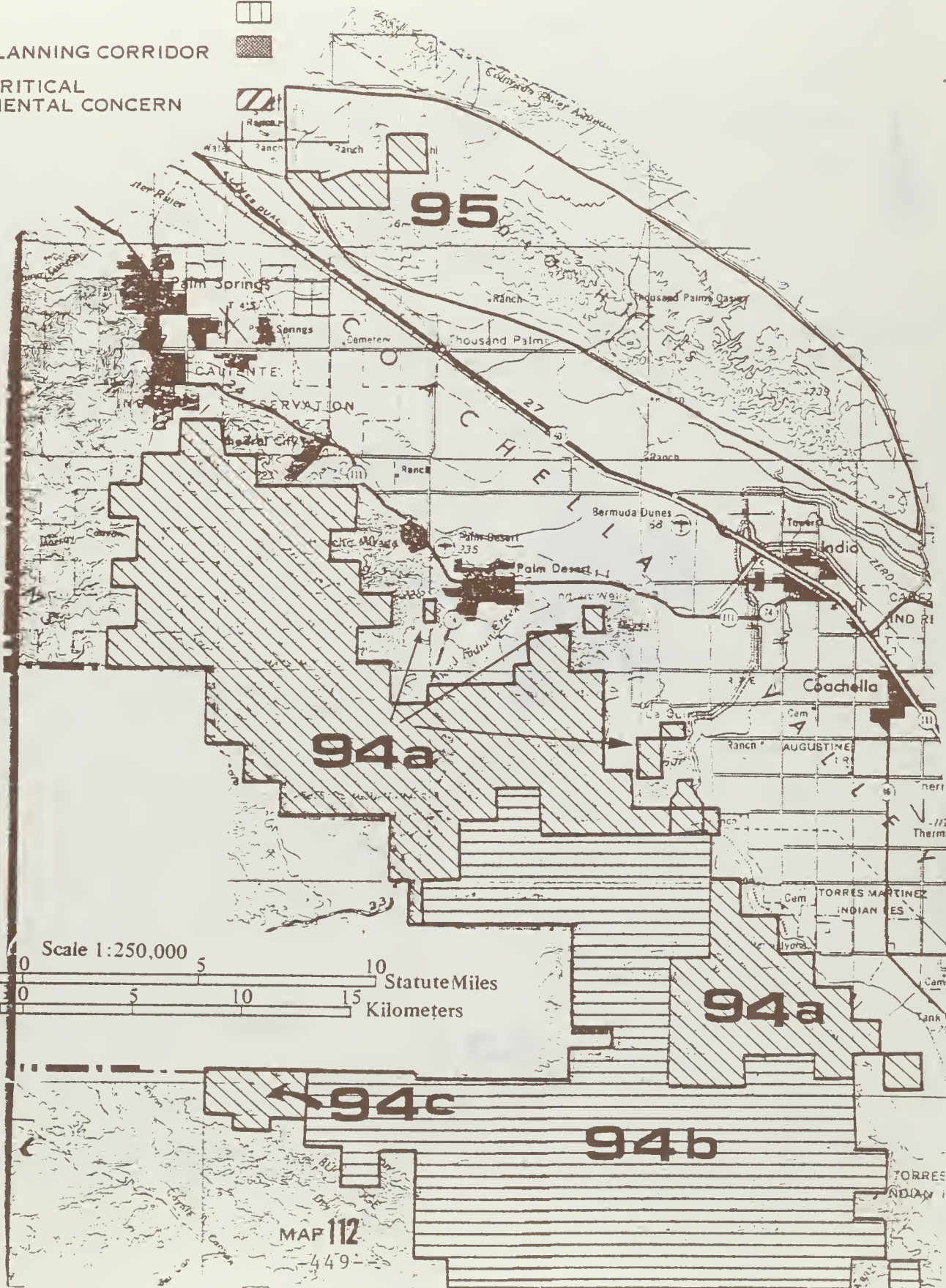
CLASS L

CLASS M

CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN





# PLANNING UNIT **94,95**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **w-42, w-44**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **N**

GRAZING ALLOTMENT

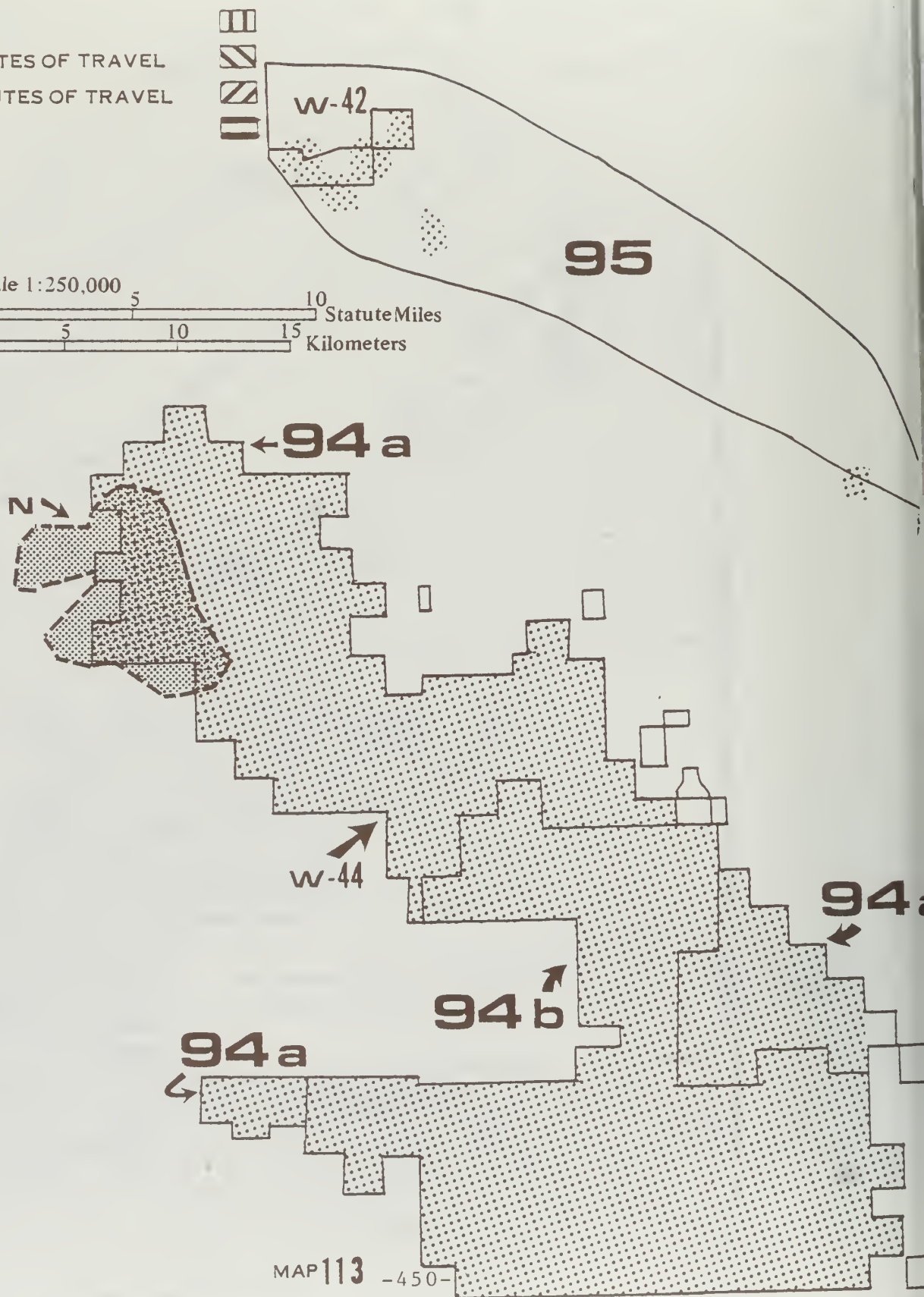
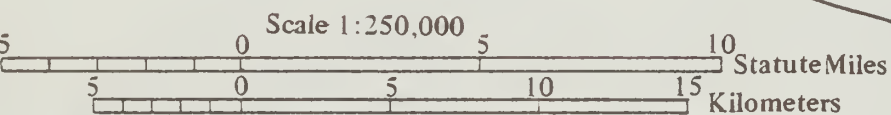
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

IDENTIFIED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



PLANNING UNIT #96

1. Multiple Use Classes (by sub area).

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect natural and cultural resources while providing access for vehicle-oriented uses (96a, Map 114).

b) This area is recommended as Class M because of the absence of resource values, and the ownership pattern which makes management in a more restricted class unfeasible (96b, Map 114).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. None.

3. Wildlife. There are no Wildlife Habitat Management Plans proposed.

4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Area Management Plans are proposed.

6. Utility Corridors. Planning Unit 96 is bordered on the south by Utility Corridor K (K, Map 114).

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple-use class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. Very little of cultural resource significance has been identified in this planning unit. An aboriginal trail and some promising areas not field checked are present. Few sites are known.

2. Native American. A portion of this planning unit contains traditional village sites and sacred areas of importance to the Cahuilla.

3. Wildlife. Three BLM sensitive species, desert tortoise, flat-tailed horned lizard, and desert bighorn sheep, are found within this planning unit. Other important species present include the mule deer. A unique palm oasis habitat is in the planning unit.

4. Vegetation. There are no rare, threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species or unique plant assemblages were identified.

5. Wilderness. None.

6. Grazing. None.

7. Wild Horses or Burros. None.

8. Recreation. The planning unit contains one highly rated interpretive site - Pushwalla Canyon.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. There are three gold prospects in this planning unit, and an additional two prospects along the boundary with Joshua Tree

National Monument. Some of these produced gold and silver, but total production is undetermined. Unpatented claims cover the Snowcloud gold-silver mine and an area northwest of Cactus City that contains radioactive and rare earth minerals. The U.S. Geological Survey has classified part of this planning area as prospectively valuable for geothermal energy.

#### PLANNING UNIT #97

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

###### 1. Multiple Use Classes.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect sensitive wildlife species and scenic values while permitting access for recreation and mineral exploration (97a, Map 114).

b) This area is recommended as Class M to provide access for recreation or mineral exploration. Desert resources will be protected by mitigation of impacts of permitted uses (97b, Map 114).

c) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife resources, including those species associated with riparian habitats at Salt Creek and Hidden Springs. Limited vehicle access is provided for recreation and mineral exploration. ACEC #60 will protect the Salt Creek pupfish, black rail habitat (97c, Map 114).

d) This area is recommended as Class M for continuance of existing sand and gravel operations (97d, Map 114).

e) This area is recommended as Class C due to its high wilderness qualities, proximity to urban areas, unique geologic features, and high potential for primitive recreational uses. This classification will protect natural and cultural values (97e, Map 114).

f) This Class M designated area is the road into Painted Canyon and the surrounding wilderness area (97f, Map 114).

g) This area is recommended as Class C because of its high wilderness qualities, and proximity to populated areas. Sensitive wildlife species will be protected by a Class C designation (97g, Map 114).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. A portion of Salt Creek pupfish/black rail habitat (ACEC #60) is located within this planning unit. The purpose of the ACEC is to protect wildlife values (60, Map 114).

3. Wildlife. Two Wildlife Habitat Management Plans (HMP) are proposed for this planning unit.

The Orocopia Mountains HMP will protect and/or enhance the wildlife values of the area, especially desert bighorn sheep. Completion of the plan will be within 5 years. Long-term management will require protection of water sources (W45, Map 115).

The Chuckwalla Bench (desert tortoise crucial habitat) HMP is proposed with the objective of protecting and/or enhancing wildlife values of the area, especially the desert tortoise. Completion of the plan will be within five years. Long-term management will require the removal of wild horses and acquisition of private lands (W52, Map 115).

4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. There are no Herd Management Area Plans proposed.

6. Utility Corridors. Planning Unit #97 is bordered on the north by Utility corridor K and on the southwest by corridor M (K, M, Map 114).

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to multiple use class guidelines.

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural Resources. This area contains only five widely scattered small zones of known high cultural resource sensitivity/significance.

2. Native American. A portion of this region contains Cahuilla village sites, cremation areas and localities with mythical association. A Cahuilla winter camp is found here as well.

3. Wildlife. Three BLM sensitive species, the desert tortoise, flat-tailed horned lizard, and desert bighorn sheep are found within this planning unit. Other important species present include the mule deer, prairie falcon, and gray shrew. A unique palm oasis habitat is in the planning unit.

4. Vegetation. Several sensitive plant species and a number of palm oases (associated with some seeps and springs along the San Andreas Fault north of the Salton Sea) are included in Planning Unit #97.

5. Wilderness. This planning unit includes two Wilderness Study Areas. The Mecca Hills (WSA No. 343) was ranked 60 out of a total of 137 WSAs. The Orocopia Mountain WAS (No. 344) was ranked 59.

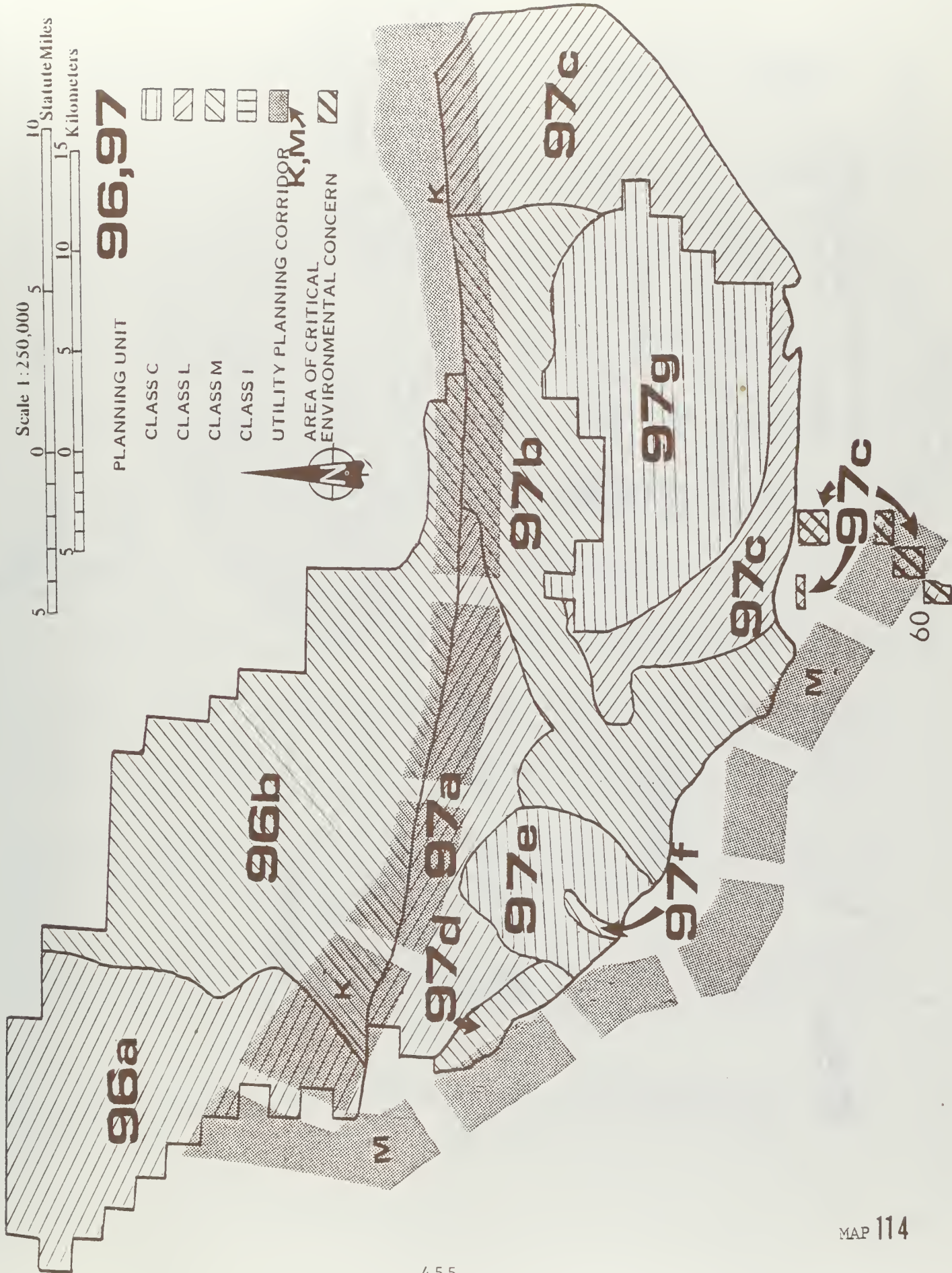
6. Grazing. None.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. Excellent hiking/backpacking opportunities are found along the southern slopes of the Mecca Hills and Orocopia Mountains south to the Coachella Canal. The planning unit contains four highly rated interpretive sites: the Mecca Hills, Painted Canyon, Orocopia Mountains and Salt Creek. Heavily used educational/research locations include Box Canyon Wash and Salt Creek. Forty percent of the planning unit is rated as excellent scenic quality. Major activities include motorcycle and four wheel drive play and touring, target shooting, camping, sightseeing, picnicking, hobby prospecting and rockhounding.



9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. Most of the current mineral activity in this planning unit is taking place in the western Mecca Hills where sand and gravel are being removed at two sites. Gold, manganese, fluorite, and talc are reported to occur in the Orocopia Mountains. A small amount of gold has been produced from one of the three occurrences here and exploration of the gold potential is continuing. Minor amounts of fluorite and manganese have also been produced in the Orocopias. Uranium is reported to occur here, but it is doubtful that further exploration or development will take place. At least nine unpatented claims are recorded in Planning Unit #97.





PLANNING UNIT **96,97**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **W-45,52**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN **60**

GRAZING ALLOTMENT

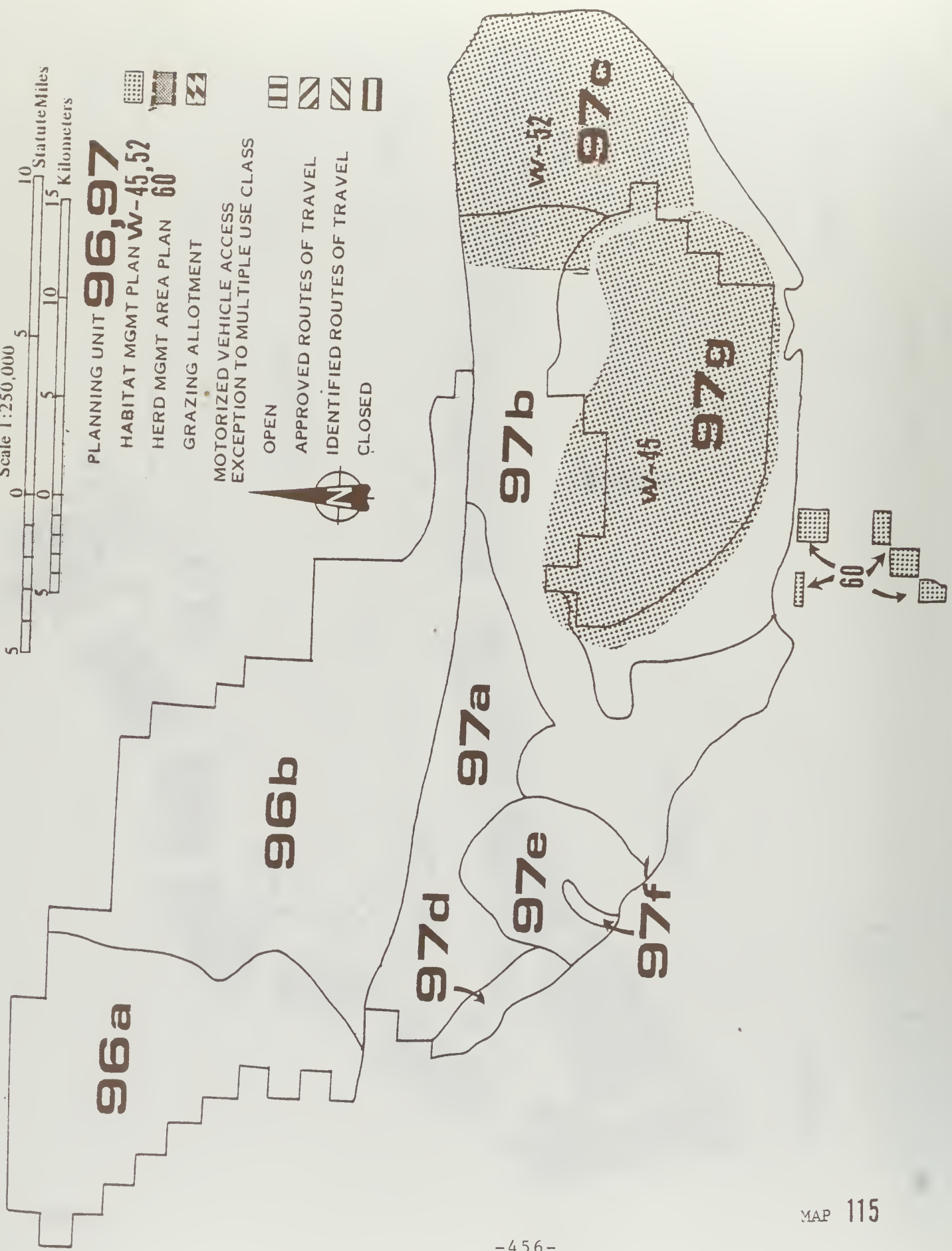
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

IDENTIFIED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED





PLANNING UNIT #98

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Classes.

a) This area is recommended as Class L. In spite of high mineral values throughout the area and a geothermal area in Chuckwalla Valley, it was considered necessary to protect sensitive wildlife, vegetative and cultural resources. These include a declining herd of desert bighorn sheep, a desert tortoise critical habitat, Chuckwalla Bench Sonoran Desert vegetation, and numerous culturally significant sites. Class L status will allow limited access for mineral exploration and recreation. (98a, Map 116)

b) This area is recommended as Class C. It is considered to be the prime portion of Wilderness Study Area #348. Natural and cultural resources will also be protected by this classification. (98b, Map 116)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. There are two ACECs proposed for this planning unit.

Corn Spring, ACEC #56, is recommended to protect prehistoric and historic values, vegetation, wildlife habitat, and outstanding scenic quality. (59, Map 116)

The Chuckwalla Bench, ACEC # 59, is recommended to protect wildlife values. (59, Map 116)

3. Wildlife. There are three wildlife Habitat Management Plans proposed for this planning unit.

A habitat management plan will be prepared for the Chuckwalla Bench desert tortoise crucial habitat. The management objective is to protect and/or enhance the wildlife values of this area, especially the desert tortoise. Completion of the plan is to be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros and acquisition of private lands. (W52, 117)

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Chuckwalla Mountains. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, especially the declining desert bighorn sheep herd. Completion of the plan is to be within 5 years. Long-term management will require protection of water sources. (W53, Map 117)

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Chuckwalla Bench, a special wildlife habitat. Its objective will be to protect the desert tortoise, a BLM sensitive species. The plan will be completed within 5 years. (59, Map 117).

4. Grazing Allotments. Ford Dry Lake Extension. This proposal would expand the present allotment. It would be designated as an ephemeral range and be subject to the 200 pound restriction. (64, Map 117)



5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Area Plans are proposed.
6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor K forms the northern border of Planning Unit 98.
7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple-use class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Three zones of known high and very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance occur within this larger area, two of which are of highest importance to archaeological studies. Rock art, trails, workshops, campsites, historic mining and transportation remains stand out in the sensitive areas.
2. Native American. No resources of traditional religious concern or secular importance have been identified.
3. Wildlife. A federal and state-listed species, the elf owl, is found within this planning unit. Two BLM sensitive species, the desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep, also inhabit the planning unit. Other important species in the area include prairie falcon and mule deer. This planning unit is also a potential reintroduction area for the American pronghorn. The Chuckwalla Bench, and Corn Springs, are particularly important to wildlife.
4. Vegetation. Planning Unit #98 includes a number of sensitive plant species. Part of the Munz Cholla Unique Plant Assemblage occupies the portion of the Chuckwalla Bench included within Planning Unit #98. There is also a palm oases associated with Corn Springs.
5. Wilderness. The Chuckwalla Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA # 348) is located within the planning unit. This WSA was ranked 56 out of 137.
6. Grazing. Range condition is good.
7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.
8. Recreation. Excellent backpacking/hiking opportunities exist throughout the Chuckwalla Mountains with good birdwatching and wildlife viewing in and around Corn Spring and Corn Springs Wash. The Planning Unit contains three highly rated interpretive sites; Jaeger Nature Center, Chuckwalla Mountains, and Corn Springs. Corn Springs is also heavily used for education and research. There are excellent opportunities for rock and mineral hunting on the southeastern slopes of the Chuckwalla Mountains. Major activities include camping, rockhounding, hobby prospecting, four wheel drive and motorcycle play and touring, sightseeing and target shooting.
9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. The Chuckwalla Mountains have produced over 5,000 ounces of gold, 900 ounces of silver, 2,000 pounds of copper, and 5,000 pounds of lead. Exploration for gold and silver-lead deposits is currently in progress. More than 20 gold prospects plus lead-silver, and minor uranium occurrences have been found thus far in the Chuckwallas. A geochemical survey

by the Desert Plan Staff found anomalous amounts of rare earths in stream sediment samples, although there are no known occurrences of this uncommon and potentially valuable commodity in this area. Potential for future discoveries of the minerals mentioned previously is very good. Interest in geothermal energy and the oil and gas potential of the Chuckwalla Valley has increased in the past year and exploration for these energy resources is under way. Approximately 11 patented and 145 unpatented claims have been recorded in this planning area.



PLANNING UNIT

CLASS C

CLASS L

CLASS M

CLASS I

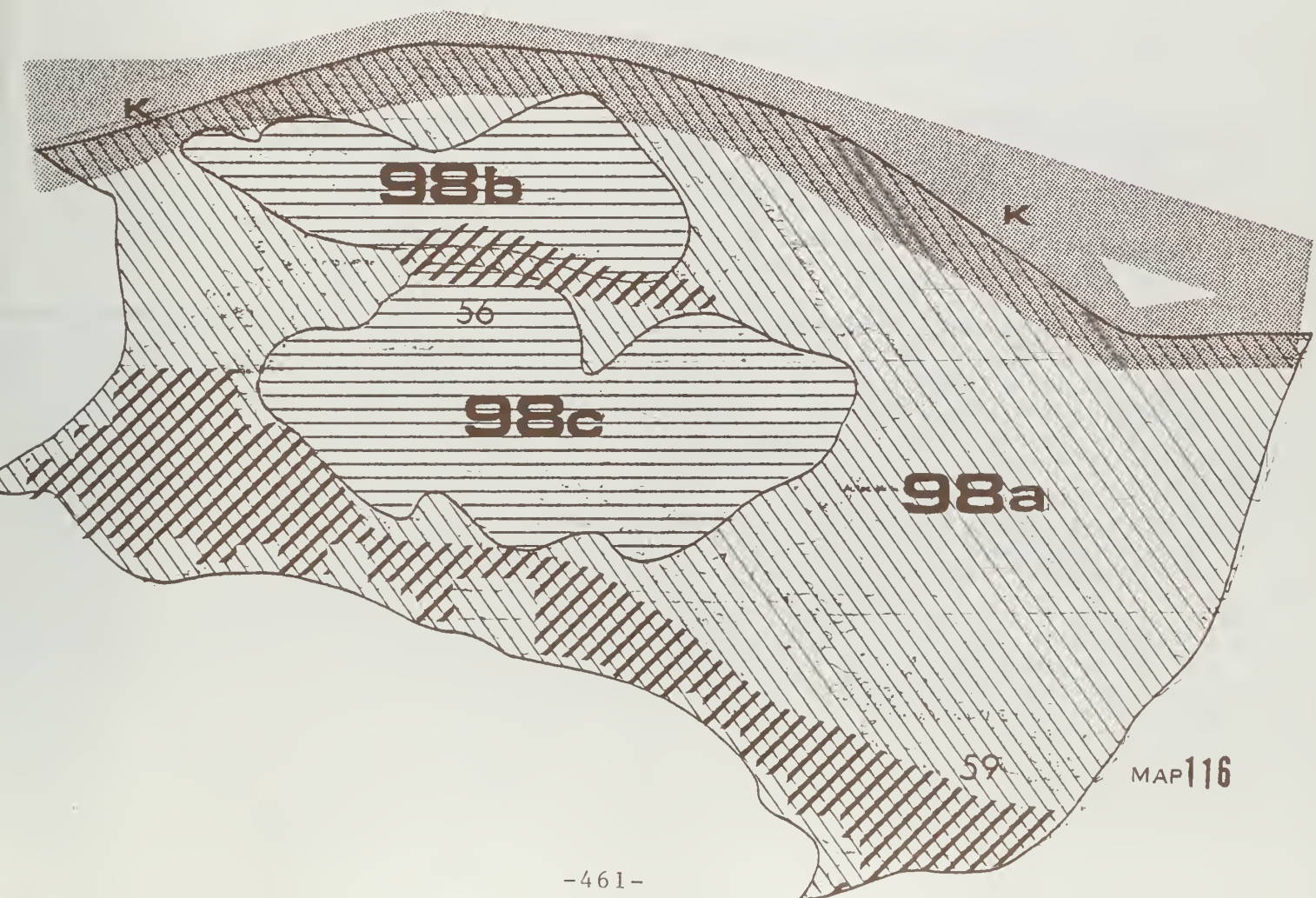
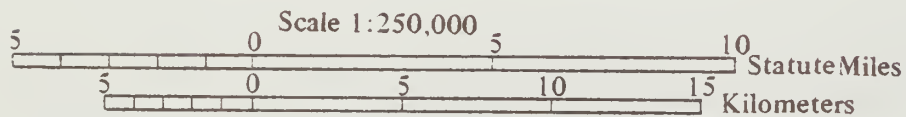
UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR **K**

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

**98**



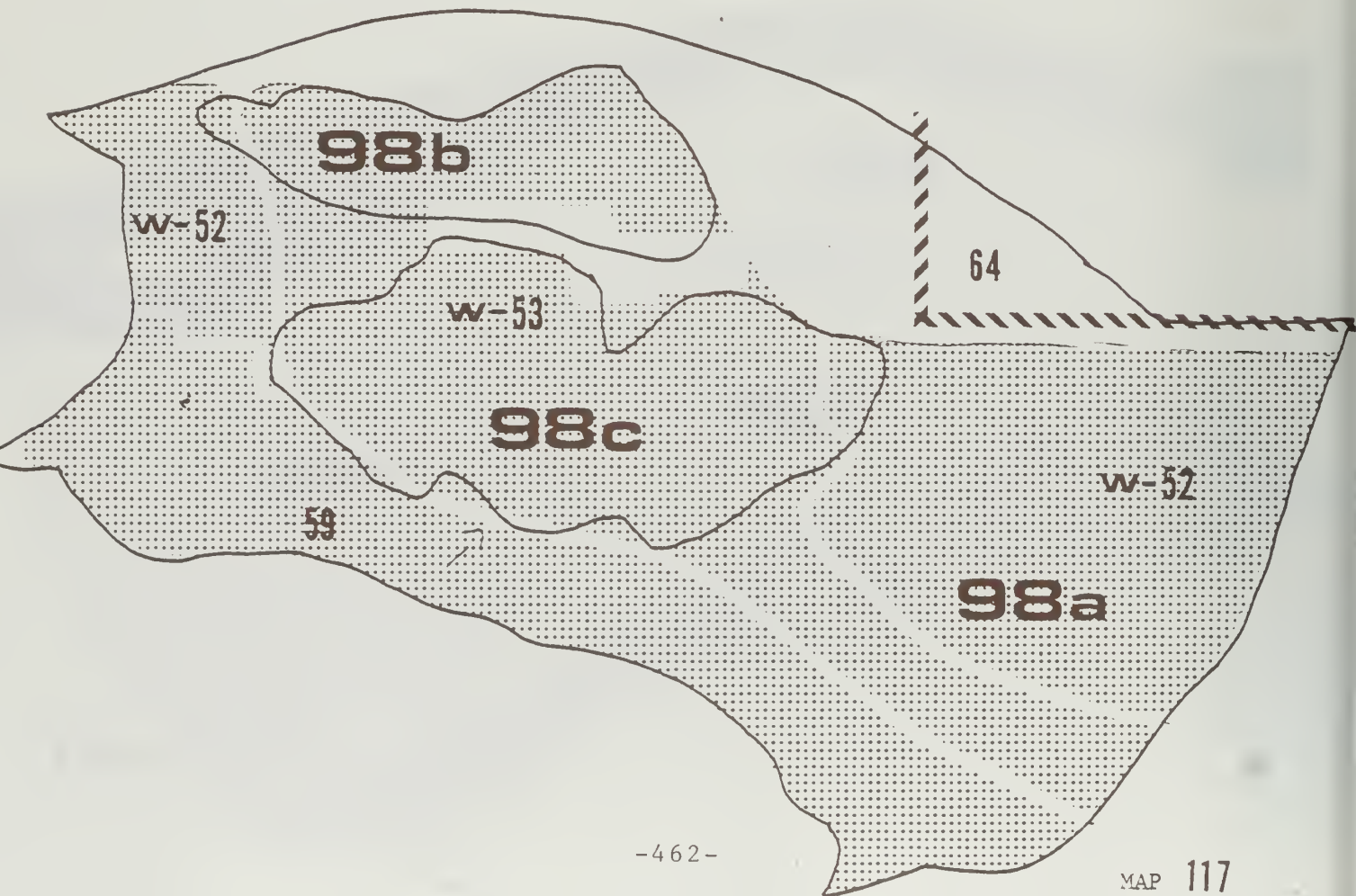
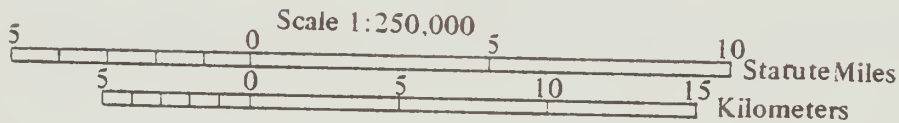
**56, 59**





# PLANNING UNIT 98

- HABITAT MGMT PLAN w-52, w-53, 
- HERD MGMT AREA PLAN 59 
- GRAZING ALLOTMENT 64 
- MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS
- OPEN 
- APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL 
- EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL 
- CLOSED 



PLANNING UNIT #99

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for mineral and geothermal energy exploration and development and for recreational vehicle access, while allowing for mitigation of impacts of permitted uses on desert resources. (99a, Map 118)

b) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife and vegetative resources, which are particularly high in Milpitas Wash and on the Chuckwalla Bench, as well as the primitive characteristics of the Little Chuckwalla Mountains. Vehicle access is provided on approved routes for mineral exploration and recreation. (99b, Map 118)

c) This area is recommended as Class M because of existing mining activities. (99c, Map 118)

d) The area south of Milpitas Wash in Planning Unit #99 is recommended as Class M. The large number of small subdivisions and checkerboard land status would make management of a more restrictive multiple use class unfeasible.

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #99 contains two ACECs #57, the Chuckwalla Valley Dune Thicket has the objective of protecting wildlife habitat. (57, Map 118)

ACEC #59, Chuckwalla Bench, is recommended to protect wildlife values (59, Map 118). See Appendix IV for details.

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Chuckwalla Bench (Desert Tortoise Critical Habitat). The management objective is to protect and/or enhance the wildlife values of this area, especially the desert tortoise. Completion of the plan will be within 5 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral burros and acquisition of private lands. (W52, Map 118)

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Chuckwall Mountains. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values in the Chuckwalla Mountains, especially the declining desert bighorn sheep herd. Completion of the plan will be within 5 years. Long-term management will require protection of water sources. (W 53, Map 118)

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Milpitas Wash with the objective to protect and enhance wildlife values. Completion of the plan will be within 2 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral horses and burros and acquisition of private lands. (W55, Map 118)

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Chuckwalla Bench, a special wildlife habitat. Its objective will be to protect the desert tortoise, a BLM sensitive species. The plan will be completed within 5 years. (59, Map 119)

4. Grazing Allotments. Ford Dry Lake Allotment. This allotment remains as an ephemeral range type, but is now subject to 200 pounds per acre of dry annual vegetation before grazing turnout. The Allotment Management Plan is high priority. See Appendix XIII and the Livestock Element for further discussion. (52, Map 119)

Ford Dry Lake Extention. This proposal would expand the present Allotment. It would be designated as an ephemeral range, and be subject to the 200 pound restriction. (64, Map 119)

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Chocolate/Mule Mountains Herd Management Area (HMA). The management objective is to reduce the feral burro population from 230 to 22 animals. The remaining burros should be located in the northern portion of the HMA because of bighorn sheep habitat in the southern portion. The BLM Yuma District has the lead responsibility for developing the medium priority Colorado River Herd Management Area Plan. The Yuma District expects to have the plan completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1980. (D, Map 119)

6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corrdior "J" passes along the southeast border of the planning unit, while Corridor K forms the northern boundary. They are along existing routes of travel, and are part of a regional network designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption. (J, K, Map 119)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. The only exception to the Multiple Use Class guidelines with respect to Motorized Vehicle Access is ACEC #57, the Chuckwalla Valley Dune Thicket. Although that portion of the Planning Unit is Class M, (existing routes of travel) management within the ACEC will be to close the area to vehicle access. (1, Map 119)

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Most of this area has not been examined and therefore identified as of high or very high cultural resource sensitivity and significance. However, in the very south of this area is a very significant historic mine and a number of scientifically important archaeological sites.

2. Native American. No values of traditional religious concern or secular importance to Native Americans have been identified.

3. Wildlife. Two species identified as BLM sensitive are found in Planning Unit #99: The desert tortoise, and desert bighorn sheep. Other important species include the Prairie Falcon, and Mule Deer. The Chuckwalla Valley Dunes, and Milpitas Wash are of particular importance to wildlife.

4. Vegetation. Planning Unit #99 contains one unusual plant assemblage, the Munz Cholla.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #99 contains Wilderness Study Area #350 Little Chuckwalla Mountain. It is ranked #95 out of 137. See Appendix III.

6. Grazing. The Ford Dry Lake Allotment range condition is good.

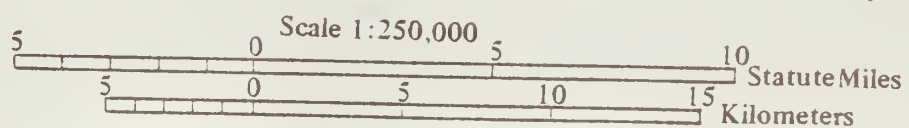
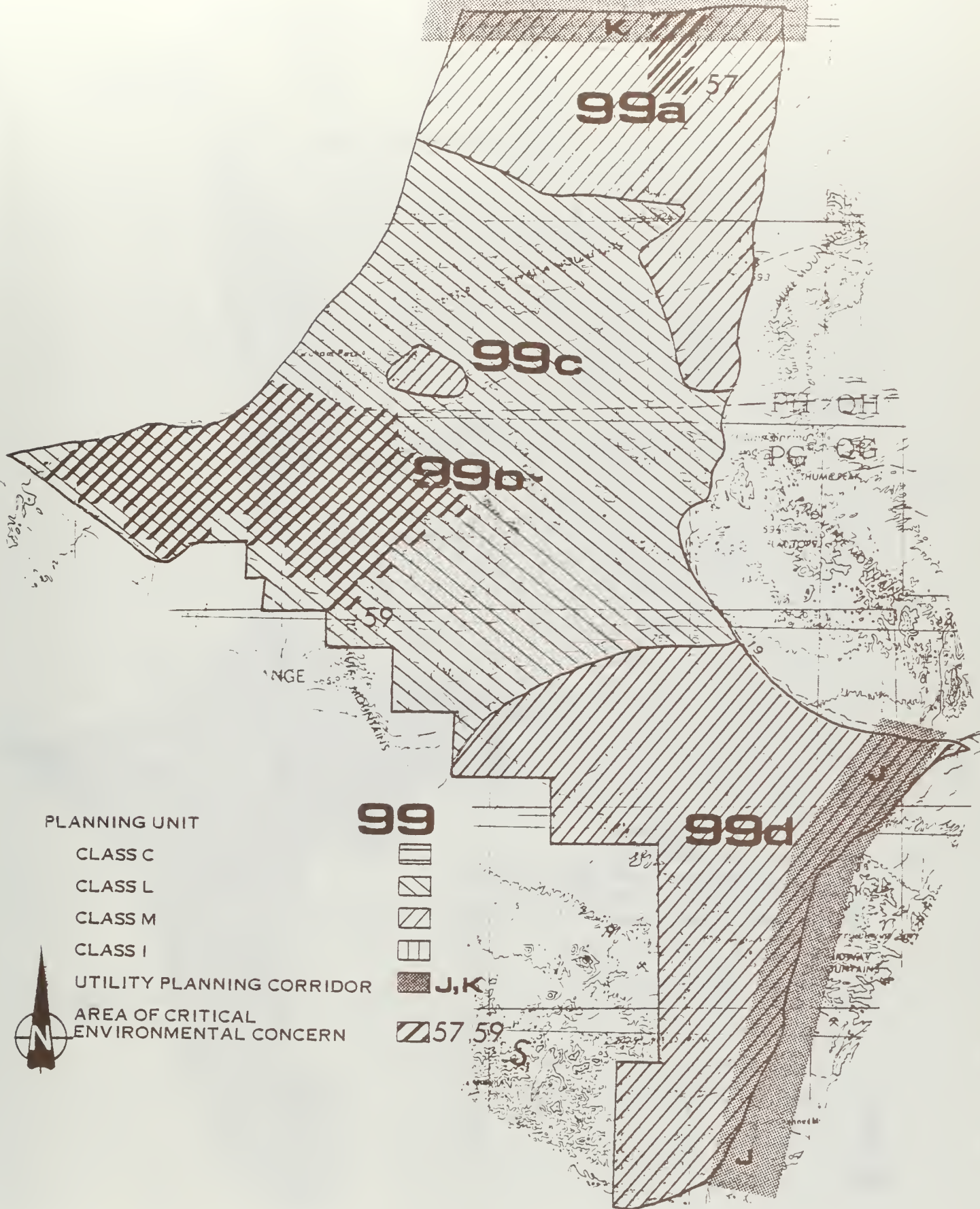
7. Wild Horses and Burros. In the Chocolate Mountains Herd Management Area, the condition of the range at herd concentration points is fair.

8. Recreation. Excellent opportunities for hiking and backpacking can be found in the Chuckwalla and southern Chocolate Mountains. There are excellent rock and mineral collecting areas throughout the planning unit. Excellent opportunities to hunt deer, and upland game exist in the Southern Chocolate Mountains, and in Milpitas Wash. Milpitas Wash also provides excellent opportunities for birdwatching and nature study. The planning unit contains two sites rated excellent for interpretation and education: the Chuckwalla Bench, and Milpitas Wash. Major activities currently taking place in the planning unit include: camping, rockhounding, sightseeing, nature study, four-wheel drive touring, motorcycle play and touring, and target shooting.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. There are several types of mineral exploration going on in the northern part of this planning unit. The perlite deposit in the Little Chuckwalla Mountains has been delineated and development continues sporadically. Geothermal, and oil & gas exploration is continuing in the Chuckwalla Valley. Gold and copper are reported to occur near Graham Pass. Manganese and barite are found in the Palo Verde Mountains on the eastern boundary of this planning area. Manganese was produced from two of these deposits. Farther south, the Paymaster Mine produced silver, lead, and zinc intermittently from 1867 to 1939 and the area has good potential for these resources. Clay, gold and uranium occur at the southern tip of the planning area. Over 600 unpatented claims are recorded with the BLM.











PLANNING UNIT #100

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class M to allow for existing and potential mining activities and to provide for vehicle access for recreation and grazing. Sensitive Native American and cultural resources may be protected through mitigation of permitted uses. (100a, Map 120)

b) This area is recommended as Class L to protect primitive characteristics (Palo Verde Mountains), wildlife and vegetative resources (Milpitas Wash), and very high cultural resource and Native American values. This multiple use classification also provides limited vehicle access for mineral exploration and recreation. (100b, Map 120)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #100 contains ACEC #58, the Mule Mountains. The management objective is to protect prehistoric values. See Appendix #IV. (58, Map 120)

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Milpitas Wash. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values in Milpitas Wash. Completion of the plan will be within 2 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral horses and burros and acquisition of private lands. (W55, Map 121)

4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Chocolate/Mule Mountains Herd Management Area (HMA). The management objective is to reduce the feral burro population from 230 to 22 animals. The remaining burros should be located in the northern portion of the HMA because of Bighorn Sheep habitat in the southern portion. The BLM Yuma District has the lead responsibility for developing the medium priority Colorado River Herd Management Area Plan which will be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1980. (D, Map 121)

6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor J passes along the eastern border of the Planning Unit. It is along an existing route of travel, State Highway 78, and is a part of a regional network designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption. (J, Map 120)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There is one exception to the Multiple Use Class Guidelines for vehicle access in Planning Unit 100. ACEC #58, in a Class L and (approved routes of travel) will be closed to vehicle access for protection of historic values. (58, Map 121)

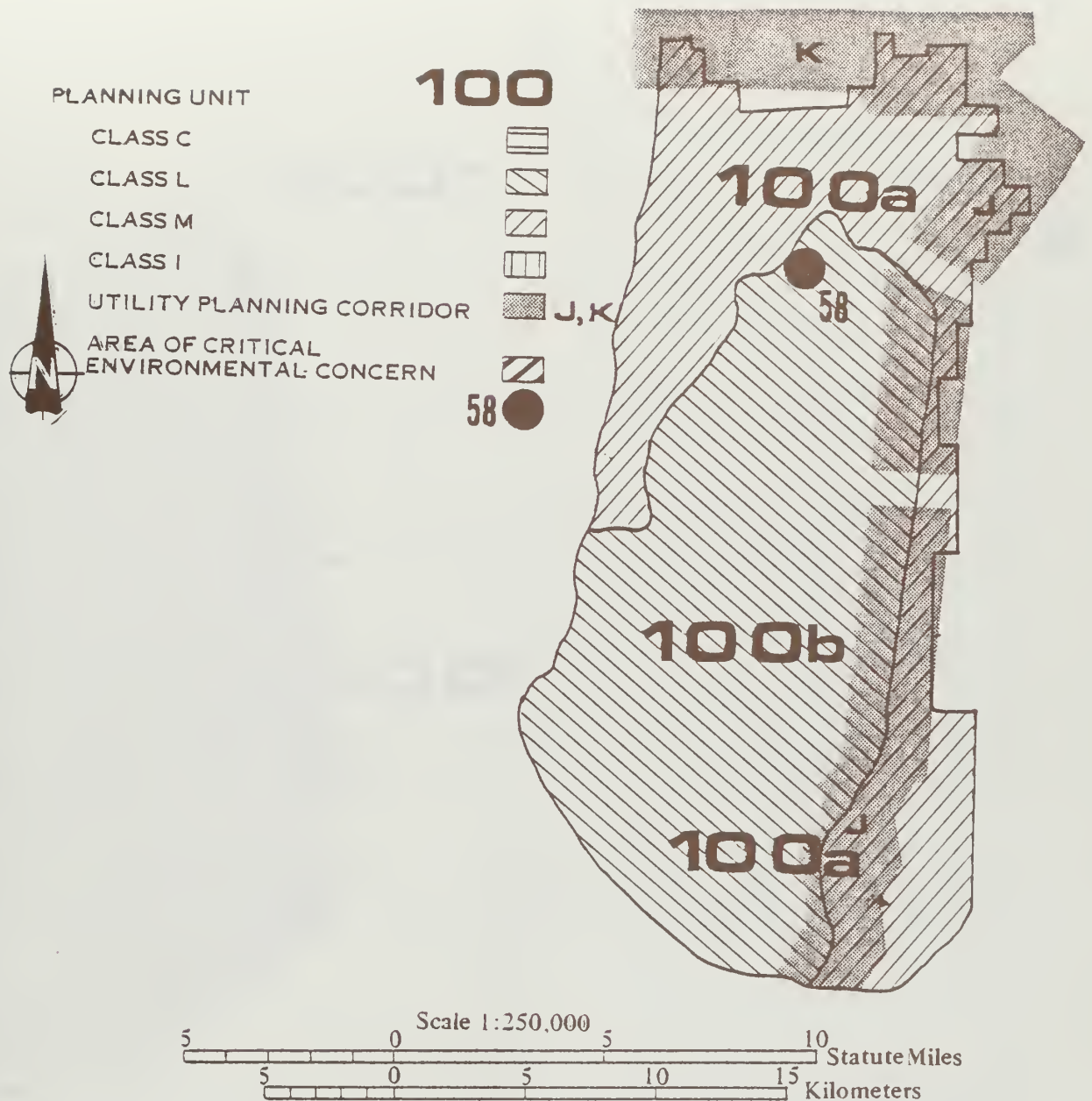
B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Over one-half of this area includes recognized zones of high and very high cultural resource sensitivity and significance. Rock art, habitation sites, workshops of great antiquity, trails, rock alignments, intaglios, etc. are present. Overall, the planning unit is highly



significant.

2. Native American. There are numerous permanent occupation sites of Yuma area tribes located within this planning unit. Ritually - associated collection continue to take place corresponding to the seasonal availability of resources. Mountain peaks and some canyon areas are associated with myths and oral narratives for the Quechan, Cocopa, Maricopa, Halchidoma, Chemehuevi, and Mohave.
3. Wildlife. The planning unit has one BLM sensitive species, the desert tortoise. Other important species include the prairie falcon, cave myotis bat, pallid bat, mule deer. The planning unit is suitable for the re-introduction of the American Pronghorn. The Milpitas Wash is particularly important for wildlife.
4. Vegetation. There were no special vegetation values identified.
5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #100 contains Wilderness Study Area #352, Palo Verde Mountains. It is rated Number #42 out of 137. See Appendix III.
6. Grazing. None.
7. Wild Horses and Burros. Range condition at herd concentration points in the Chocolate Mountains Herd Management Area is fair. Approximately 230 feral burros are present.
8. Recreation. The Palo Verde Mountains offer excellent opportunities for hiking and backpacking. The Planning Unit also contains excellent rock and mineral collecting opportunities. Currently, major activities taking place include camping, sightseeing, rockhounding picnicking, hiking, and horseback riding.
9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. The Palo Verde Mountains contain a past producer of barite, six part producers of manganese and three manganese prospects that may have produced manganese occurrences in this planning area are widespread. Fire agate, of gemstone, is currently being mined from the southern Mule Mountains. The northern part of this range contains many gold prospects, but production, if any, is undetermined. Uranium occurrences are reported at the north end of the Mules, but recent exploration did not find mineralization of major economic importance. This planning area contains part of the Ford Dry Lake Known Geothermal Resource Area. The northeastern part has been classified by U.S. Geological Survey is prospectively valuable for oil and gas. The planning area contains about 140 unpatented mining claims.



# PLANNING UNIT 100

HABITAT MGMT PLAN W-55

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT

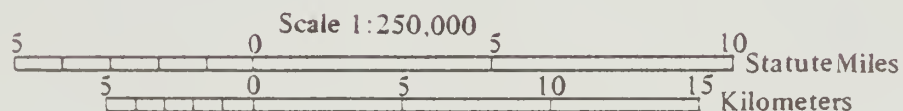
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED





PLANNING UNIT #101

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, vegetation, cultural, and Native American values while providing vehicle access for mineral exploration and development. (101a, Map 122)

b) This area is recommended as a Class M to facilitate mineral exploration and development; through mitigation desert resources will be protected from impacts of permitted use. (101b, Map 122)

c) These areas are recommended as Class C to protect wilderness qualities, sensitive wildlife species, sensitive soils, and high cultural and Native American values. (101c, 101e, Map 122)

d) This area is recommended as Class L to protect natural and cultural resources, and Native American values while providing vehicle access for mineral exploration. (101d, Map 122)

f) This area is recommended as Class L to protect primitive qualities, and natural and cultural resources, while providing vehicle access for recreational activities and mineral exploration and development. (101f, Map 122)

g) This area is recommended Class M to provide for traditional recreational vehicle use.

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #101 contains ACEC #68, Indian Pass. The management objective is to protect prehistoric values. See Appendix IV. (68, Map 122)

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Milpitas Wash with the objective to protect and enhance wildlife values. Completion of the plan will be within 2 years. Long-term management will require removal of feral horses and burros and acquisition of private lands. (W55, Map 123)

4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Chocolate/Mule Mountains Herd Management Area (HMA). The management objective is to reduce the feral burro population from 230 to 22 animals. The remaining burros should be located in the northern portion of the HMA because of bighorn sheep habitat in the southern portion. The BLM Yuma District has the lead responsibility for developing the medium priority Colorado River Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) which will be completed by the end of Fiscal year 1980. (D, Map 123)

Picacho Herd Management Area. This area falls within the Colorado River HMAP. The present population of 42 wild horses will be maintained. The BLM Yuma District has the lead responsibility for developing the HMAP. (P. Map 123)



6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor J touches the western border of the planning unit. It is along an existing route of travel, State Route 78, and is a part of a regional network designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption. (J, Map 122)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Within this area known high and very high cultural resource areas are concentrated in the northern one-half, especially around major washes and within portions of the Chocolate Mountains. Sites are often dense and include villages, temporary camps, lithic scatters, ceramics, milling stations, trails, and historic sites.

2. Native American. Some of this area is contemporarily employed for collection by the Quechan, Cocopa and, occasionally, Mohave Tribes. Elders of several groups extensively utilize this area, particularly mountainous regions. Burial areas and collection sites have mythic association and significance for many groups.

3. Wildlife. Planning Unit #101 contains two BLM sensitive species, the desert tortoise, and desert bighorn sheep. Other important species include the prairie falcon, Brazilian free-tailed bat, pallid bat, California leaf-nosed bat, big brown bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, and mule deer. Milptias Wash is particularly important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation. Planning Unit #101 has one plant species that is a candidate for listing as "threatened" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #101 contains three Wilderness Study Areas.

| <u>WSA</u>               | <u>Ranking (out of 137)</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| #355 Indian Pass         | 65                          |
| #355A Picacho Peak       | 27                          |
| #356 Little Picacho Peak | 12                          |

6. Grazing. None.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. Range condition in the Chocolate Mountains Herd Management Area is fair. Approximately 230 feral burros are present.

The range condition of the Picacho Herd Management Area is fair, and the condition of water sources is poor. About 42 wild horses are present.

8. Recreation. There are excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities between Vinagre Wash and Picacho Peak. Numerous rock and mineral collection sites are found throughout the planning unit. Excellent opportunities for hunting exist in portions of the unit. About 80% of Planning Unit #101

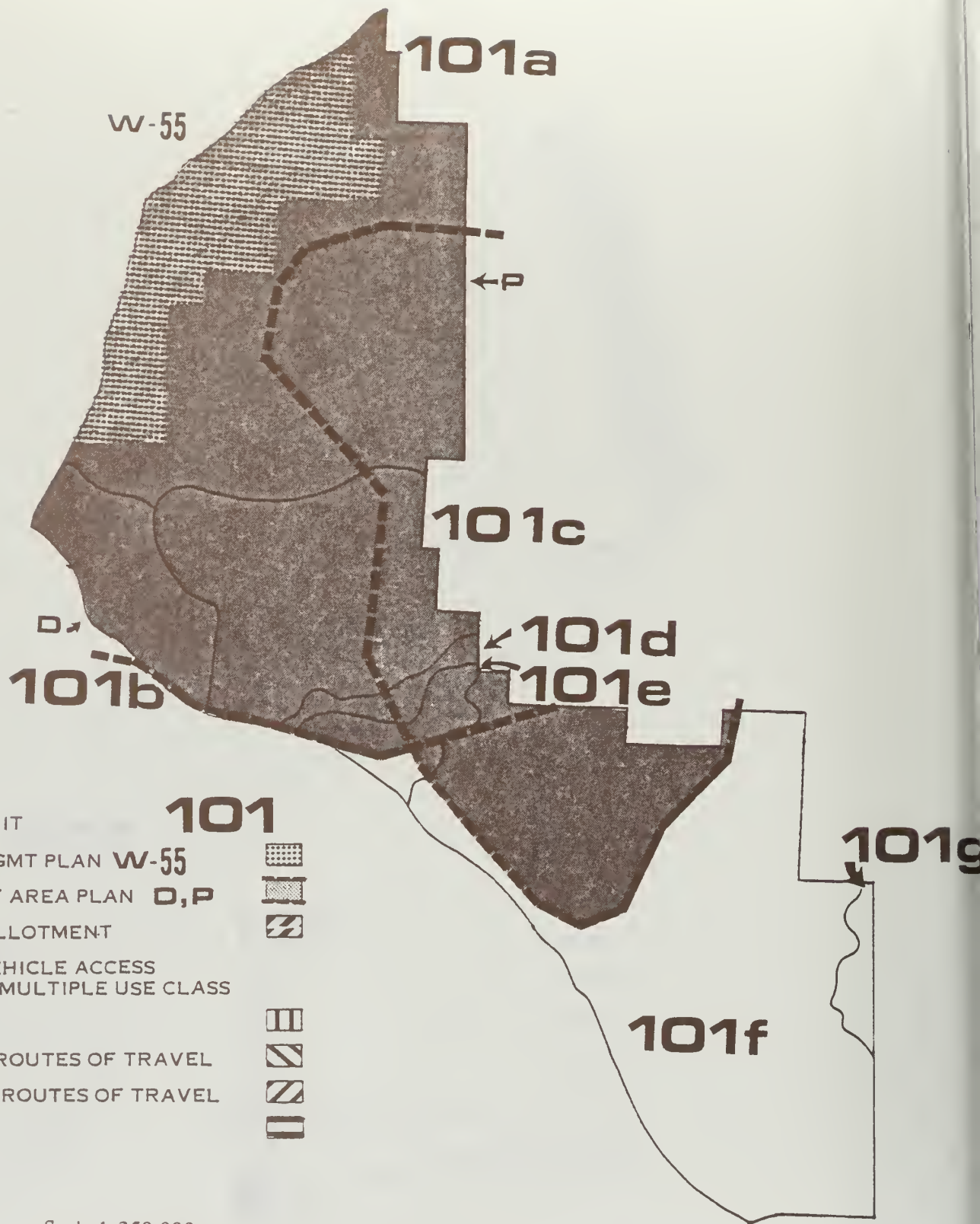
received an "excellent" rating for scenic quality. Major activities now taking place include camping, rock climbing, target shooting, hunting, four-wheel drive touring, sightseeing, and hobby prospecting.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. This planning area, including two distinctly different types of mineralization, has a long history of mining. South of Vinagre Wash, gold, silver, and lead were produced in the past. Occurrences of copper minerals have been found throughout this part of the Chocolate Mountains. Roofing granules and crushed rock have also been mined in this area. North of Vinagre Wash, in the Midway Mountains, the planning area contains a major past producer of manganese, and several smaller past producers. In 1942-59, the larger mine produced over 27,000 tons of ore and concentrates averaging 43% manganese. Together with the smaller mines and occurrences, this area contains one of the largest resources of manganese in the CDCA. Also reported are occurrences of gold-silver-copper, silver, and iron. The west side of the Midways is a popular gemstone collecting area. Wildcat wells south of Milpitas Wash have encountered traces of natural gas. Within the entire planning area, there are about 606 unpatented and 34 patented mining claims recorded with the BLM.









PLANNING UNIT #102

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect high scenic values and natural and cultural resources while allowing limited vehicle access for mineral exploration. (102a, Map 124)

b) This area is recommended as Class M to provide vehicle access for mineral exploration and recreation while allowing for mitigation of impacts on desert resources by permitted uses. (102, Map 124)

c) This area is recommended as Class L status to protect wildlife and vegetation, including a special habitat (palo verde - ironwood wash) and to protect other natural and cultural values, while allowing vehicle access for mineral exploration and development. (102c, Map 124)

d) This area is recommended as Class M because of past, present, and potential mining activity. (102d, Map 124)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #102 contains ACEC #67, Gold Basin - Rand Intaglios. The management objective is to protect prehistoric values. See Appendix IV. (67, Map 124)

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Indian Wash. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values in Indian Wash, which has an extensive stand of ironwood and palo verde which supports a variety of wildlife resources, especially high densities of birds. Completion of the plan will be within 5 years. (W 58, Map 125)

4. Grazing Allotments. Glamis Allotment. This proposed allotment was eliminated from potential leasing because of overriding archaeological and wildlife values.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. Chocolate/Mule Mountains Herd Management Area. The management objective is to reduce the feral burro population from 230 to 22 animals. The remaining burros should be located in the northern portion of the HMA because of bighorn sheep habitat in the southern portion. The BLM Yuma District has the lead responsibility for developing the medium priority Colorado River Herd Management Area Plan which will be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1980. (D, Map 125)

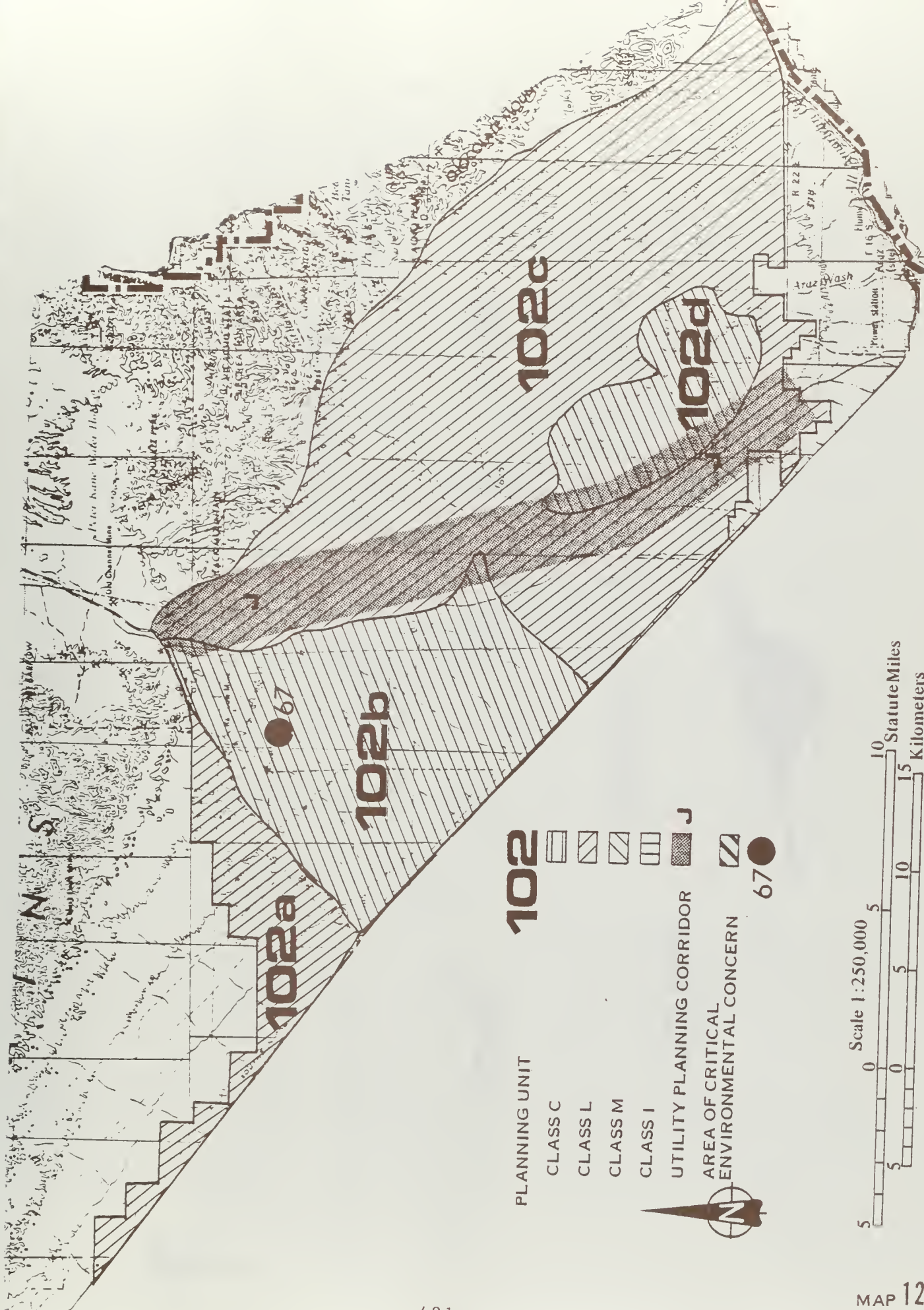
6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridors J passes through the planning unit. It is along an existing route of travel, State Route 78, and is a part of a regional network designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption. (J, Map 124)

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

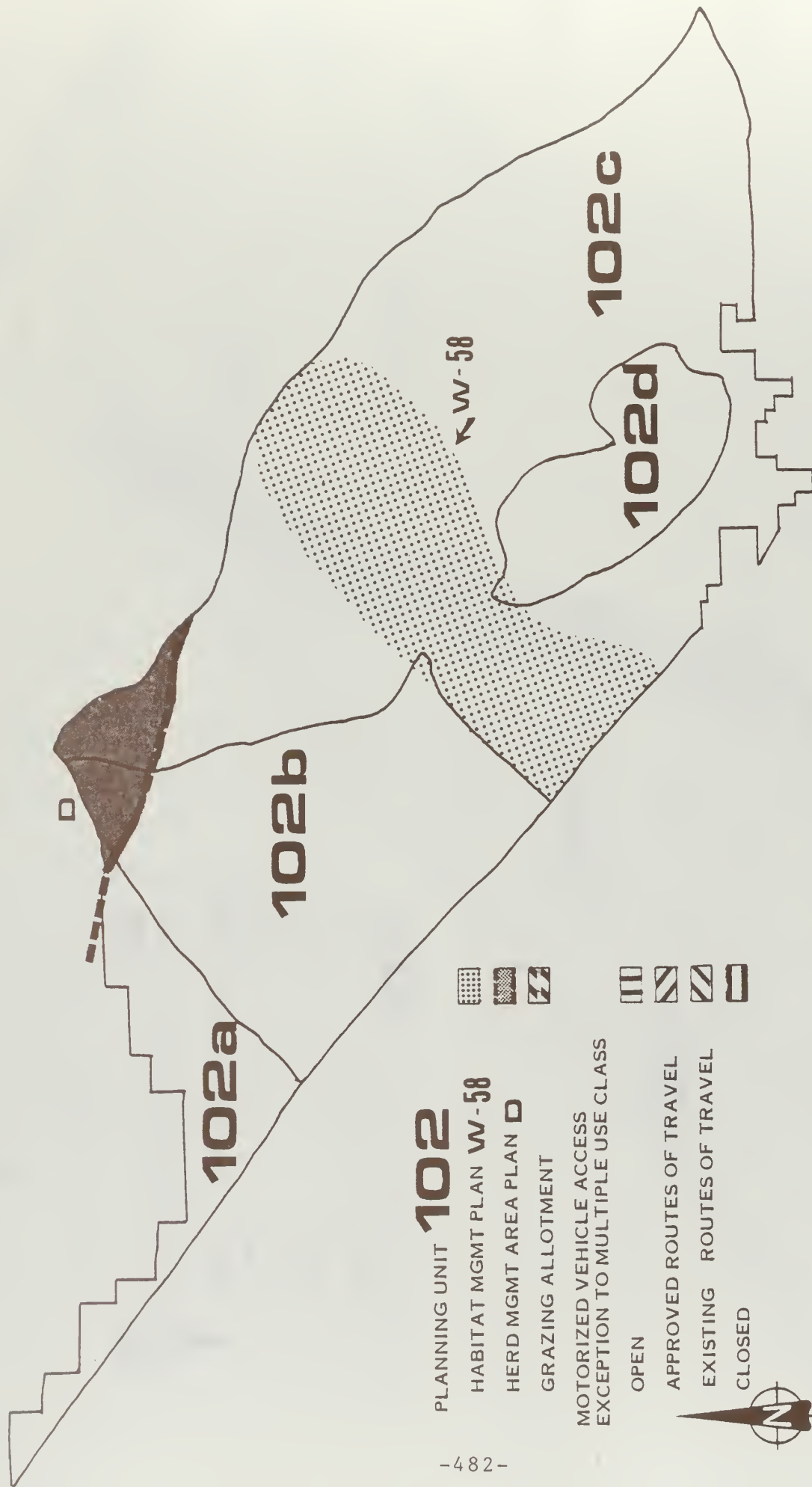
B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. This area ranks as one of the most sensitive and significant in the Colorado Desert. Both historic mining and prehistoric sites are present. Desert pavement surfaces are covered with intaglios, trails, artifacts and other delicate human remains. The Cargo Muchacho Mountains contain numerous remains related to historic mining practices.
2. Native American. Some of the Cargo Muchacho Mountains continue to be used seasonally by the Yuma Indians for food collection.
3. Wildlife. There are two BLM sensitive species, the flat-tailed horned lizard, and the desert bighorn sheep. Other species include the prairie falcon, pallid bat, big brown bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, California leaf-nosed bat, and mule deer.
4. Vegetation. There were special vegetation values identified.
5. Wilderness. None.
6. Grazing. None.
7. Wild Horses and Burros. Range conditions in the Chocolate Mountains Herd Management Area are fair. There are approximately 230 feral burros present.
8. Recreation. There are excellent opportunities for hunting deer, quail, and rabbits in the Black Mountain/Southern Chocolate Mountains area. Planning unit #102 contains two sites rated excellent for interpretation and education - Gavilan Wash, and Pilot Knob. Major activities include camping, rock-hounding, sightseeing, target shooting, four-wheel drive and motorcycle touring, motorcycle free play, hiking, picnicking and hunting.
9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. This area contains a wide variety of mineral resources. Near Glamis there are several active sand and gravel operations. Part of the Glamis Known Geothermal Resource Area lies within this planning unit and is under lease for geothermal resources. Gold, Kyanite, mica, and uranium are reported in the Cargo Muchacho Mountains. There are 24 gold prospects and/or mines in these mountains, some of which are major former gold producers. Exploration and possibly development is continuing at one of these mines. There are more than five prospects for placer gold in the alluvium north and east of the Cargo Muchachos. The Kyanite deposits are the only known sources of commercial quantities in the CDCA. There is potential for aforementioned mineral commodities and for uranium. Thirty-three patented claims and more than 400 unpatented claims have been recorded.









PLANNING UNIT #103

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class.

- a) This area between the Coachella Canal and the Southern Pacific Railroad is recommended as Class C to protect its wilderness qualities, and rare and endangered wildlife, and vegetation. (103a, Map 126)
- b) This area bordered on the east by the Coachella Canal, is recommended as Class L to provide continuity with Planning Unit #104 and to protect sensitive wildlife species and high cultural resource values while allowing limited vehicular access. (103b, Map 126)
- c) This area is recommended as Class I for continuation of traditional ORV free play activities. (103c, Map 126)
- d) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for mineral and energy development while allowing mitigation of impacts of permitted uses on desert resources. (103d, Map 126)
- e) This area is recommended as Class L to protect vegetative and wildlife resources. The dunes will be open to motorized vehicle access (which has historically been very infrequent) but will be heavily monitored to mitigate potential impacts on natural resources. (103e, Map 106)
- f) This area is recommended as Class I to provide continuation of traditional ORV use. (103g, Map 126)
- g) This area is recommended as Class M in recognition of traditional recreational uses. (103g, Map 126)

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #103 contains two proposed ACECs. ACEC #72, the Plank Road, will be protected for its unique historical and engineering values. (72, Map 126). ACEC #73, Pilot Knob, will protect prehistoric, historic, and Native American values. (73, Map 126). See Appendix IV.

3. Wildlife Management. Two portions of Planning Unit #103 will receive special attention for wildlife management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Indian Wash with the objective of protecting and enhancing wildlife values. Indian Wash has an extensive stand of ironwood and palo verde, which supports a variety of wildlife resources, especially high densities of birds. Completion of the HMP is to be within 5 years. (W58, Map 127)

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Algodones Dunes. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, particularly endemic insects. Completion of the HMP is to be within five years. (W59, Map 127)

4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Areas are proposed.
6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor L pass through the southern portion of the planning unit. It is along an existing route of travel, Interstate Route 8, and is a part of a regional network designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption. (L, Map 126)
7. Motorized Vehicle Access. A portion of the Algodones (Imperial) Dunes will be designated as "open" although the Multiple Use Class guidelines for Class "L" call for approved routes of travel. The "open" designation will permit existing low levels of touring use to continue. The open designation under the Interim Critical Management Plan caused negligible damage to sensitive vegetation, wildlife, and wilderness values. Future access restrictions resulting from construction of the new Coachella Canal will prohibit access from the south and west. Management boundaries on sand dunes are undefinable, and would not be enforceable. (4, Map 127)

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Very little evidence of cultural activity is present within this vast dune-plain area. Interdune areas exhibit small sites of significance. Near Pilot Knob in the southeast corner of the Planning Unit is an area of extreme significance and sensitivity, including trails, intaglios, and workshops.
2. Native American. This planning unit contains an extensive mountain hunting area of the Kamia. The area has recorded mythic association for many groups, including the Kamia, southern Diegueno, Yuma, and Maricopa.
3. Wildlife. Planning Unit #103 contains one BLM sensitive species, the Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard. Other important species include Andrews' dune scarab beetle and the Colorado Desert Fringe-toed Lizard. The Algodones Dunes are particularly important for wildlife.
4. Vegetation. A portion of the dune's psammophytic scrub unusual plant assemblage is within Planning Unit #103. Four sensitive plant species are present.
5. Wilderness. There are two Wilderness Study Areas in Planning Unit #103. WSA #360, North Algodones Dunes, is rated #19 out of 137. WSA #362, South Algodones Dunes, is rated #40 out of 137.
6. Grazing. None.
7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.
8. Recreation. There are excellent hunting opportunities along canals within the Planning Unit. Opportunities for off-road vehicle free play are excellent. There is one area, the Algodones Dunes, that is rated excellent for interpretation and education. The Dunes are heavily used for education and research. 90% of the Planning Unit received a rating of "excellent" for scenic quality. Major activities include sightseeing, camping, hunting, dune buggy play, motorcycle play, four-wheel drive play, hang gliding, and ORV

competition.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. This planning unit includes the central part of the Glamis Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA), and the majority of the Dunes KGRA. Within the planning area, the areas of greatest heat flow in the Glamis KGRA are at its east and west ends. Because of greater heat flow and technical problems with sand, the most promising part of the Dunes KGRA is that part between the Coachella Canal and the edge of the Algodones Dunes. The entire planning unit has been classified by the U.S. Geological Survey as prospectively valuable for oil, gas, sodium, and potassium. It is not likely that there will be much exploration for these commodities in sandy areas. The planning unit contains six sand and gravel sites.

#### PLANNING UNIT #104

##### A. DECISION RATIONALE

###### 1. Multiple Use Class

a) This portion of Planning Unit #104 is recommended as Class L to protect sensitive wildlife species and very high cultural resource values while allowing vehicle access for mineral exploration (104a, Map 126).

b) This area is recommended as Class M to provide vehicle access for mineral and geothermal energy development. Several small ACECs will protect valuable cultural and wildlife resources against impacts (104b, Map 126).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #104 contains five proposed ACECs.

ACEC's #65, Lake Cahuilla #2, #66, Lake Cahuilla #3, #69, Lake Cahuilla #5, and #71, Lake Cahuilla #6, are for protection of prehistoric cultural resources.

ACEC #70, East Mesa Flat-tailed Horned lizard Habitat, is for the protection of optimal habitat for the flat-tailed horned lizard, a state and federally-listed species (65, 66, 69, 71, 70, Map 126).

Further information can be found in Appendix IV.

3. Wildlife Management. This planning unit contains a portion of the Habitat Management Plan for the Algodones Dunes. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values, particularly endemic insects. Completion of the HMP is to be within five years (W59, Map 127).

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for East Mesa. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values in the East Mesa area, especially habitat of the flat-tailed horned lizard, a BLM sensitive species. Completion of the HMP will be within 2 years (70, Map 127).

4. Grazing Allocations. Border Allotment. This proposed allotment was eliminated from potential leasing because of overriding archaeological and wildlife values.



5. Wild Horses and Burros. No Herd Management Area Plans are proposed.
6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridor M forms the western boundary of Planning Unit #104. Corridor L forms the southern boundary. It follows an existing corridor, and is a portion of a regional system that is designed to link power sources with areas of power consumption (L, M, Map 126).
7. Motorized Vehicle Access. Portions of Planning Unit #104 which are in Class M, existing routes of travel, will actually be designated as approved routes of travel. These areas include all of the five ACECs. This will serve to protect both prehistoric values and wildlife habitat (1, 2, 3, Map 127).

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. This area of West Mesa is extremely sensitive along its western one-third where ancient lakeshores and sloughs provided a focus for late prehistoric activities. A small area of sensitivity is also located in the southeast corner of the planning unit. The archaeological remains include campsites, cremation locations, pottery scatters, specialized use sites, etc. of highest importance to research concerning past peoples.
2. Native American. No values of traditional religious concern or secular importance to Native Americans have been identified.
3. Wildlife. There is one federally-listed species, the California black rail. The flat-tailed horned lizard is currently the only BLM sensitive species. Other important species include the vermilion flycatcher, summer tanager, and Andrews' dune scarab beetle, and the Colorado Desert fringe-toed lizard. The Algodones Dunes are particularly important for wildlife.
4. Vegetation. One sensitive plant species, a candidate for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is found in the planning unit.
5. Wilderness. None.
6. Grazing. None.
7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.
8. Recreation. There are excellent birdwatching and hunting opportunities along major canals surrounding the planning unit. Major activities include motorcycle free play, camping, model airplane flying, target shooting, and ORV competition.
9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. This planning unit contains most of the East Mesa Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA), the southwest corner of the Dunes KGRA, and the west part of the Glamis KGRA. The East Mesa KGRA is currently being developed, and has two pilot geothermal power plants. The planning unit has been classified by U.S. Geological Survey as prospectively valuable for oil, gas, sodium, and potassium. This planning unit contains about 40 sand and gravel sites. At least one unpatented mining claim was recorded with the BLM.





# PLANNING UNIT 103, 104

HABITAT MGMT PLAN W-58, W-59

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN 70

GRAZING ALLOTMENT

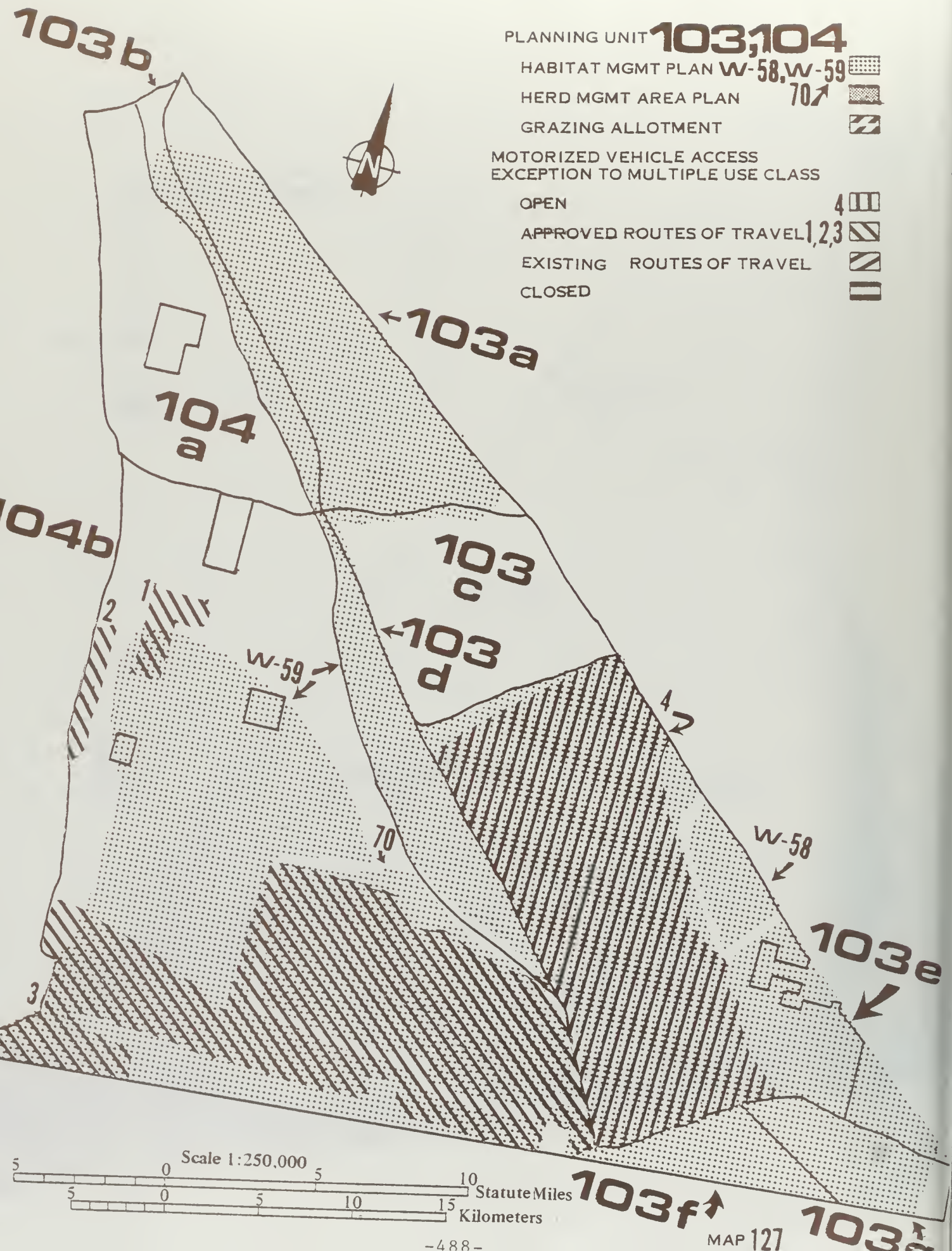
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN 4

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL 1, 2, 3

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



PLANNING UNIT #105

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class

a) This area is recommended as Class M to allow for possible geothermal development and sand and gravel mining as well as for motorized vehicle-oriented recreation (105a, Map 128).

b) This area is recommended as Class I to provide for ORV free play.

c) This area is recommended as Class L to protect sensitive wildlife habitats located adjacent to the Salton Sea (105c, Map 128).

d) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife and cultural resources while providing vehicle access for mineral and energy development (105d, Map 128).

e) This area is recommended as Class M because the location - between the many parachute test range and privately owned agricultural land - and the checkerboard land status would make management of a more limited use class unfeasible (105e, Map 128).

f) This area is recommended as Class I because of existing mining operations (105f, Map 128).

g) This area is recommended as Class C to protect wilderness qualities and natural and cultural resources (105g, Map 128).

h) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife and vegetative values while providing for vehicle access for mineral exploration and recreation (104h, Map 128).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #105 contains ACEC #61, San Sebastian Marsh/San Felipe Creek. The management objective is to protect prehistoric, historic, and Native American values, outstanding scenic quality, vegetation, and wildlife habitat. See Appendix IV (61, Map 128).

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for San Sebastian Marsh/San Felipe Creek. The objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values in the area, especially the marsh, standing water, desert pupfish and "San Sebastian" leopard frog. Completion of the HMP will be within 2 years. Long-term management will require acquisition of private lands and protection of water sources (61, Map 129).

4. Grazing Allotments. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. There are no Herd Management Area Plans proposed.

6. Utility Corridors. None.



7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There are no exceptions to the multiple use class guidelines.

B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Within this area, seven zones of known high cultural resource sensitivity/significance and two areas of known very high cultural resource sensitivity/significance are present. These zones cover more than one-half the planning unit. Prehistoric campsites, special workshops, and food gathering and processing locations are present, primarily the result of an orientation to the lakeshore environments of ancient Lake Cahuilla. San Sebastian Marsh, near the center of the Planning Unit was a prehistoric, and early historic focus of activities.

2. Native American. This area contains many collection areas, and village sites of importance to the Cahuilla.

3. Wildlife. There is one federally-listed species, the desert pupfish. The San Sebastian leopard frog, and the flat-tailed horned lizard are BLM sensitive species. Other important species include the Colorado Desert fringe-toed lizard, and the prairie falcon. San Sebastian Marsh is of particular importance to wildlife.

4. Vegetation. One sensitive plant species is probably present. One unusual plant assemblage, the Salton Sea mesquite thicket is partially within the planning unit.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #105 contains Wilderness Study Area #372, Fish Creek Mountains. It is ranked #29 out of 137. See Appendix III.

6. Grazing. None.

7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. There are excellent day hiking and nature study opportunities in the San Sebastian Marsh area. Areas adjacent to agricultural lands provide excellent dove hunting. There are two excellent interpretive and educational sites - Harper's Well/San Sebastian Marsh, and the Salton Sea barchan dunes. Major activities include camping, ORV (all types) free play, and vehicle touring, target shooting, and rockhounding.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. From deposits in the Fish Creek the United States Gypsum Company produces two thirds of the gypsum mined in California, and all of the gypsum used in wallboard in this State. This is the largest single producer in the U.S. Increases in the production rate are anticipated in the near future. Sand and gravel are also produced along Highway 78, and in the eastern part of the planning unit. There are at least two patented claims and nine unpatented claims in this area.

# PLANNING UNIT

# 105

CLASS C

CLASS L

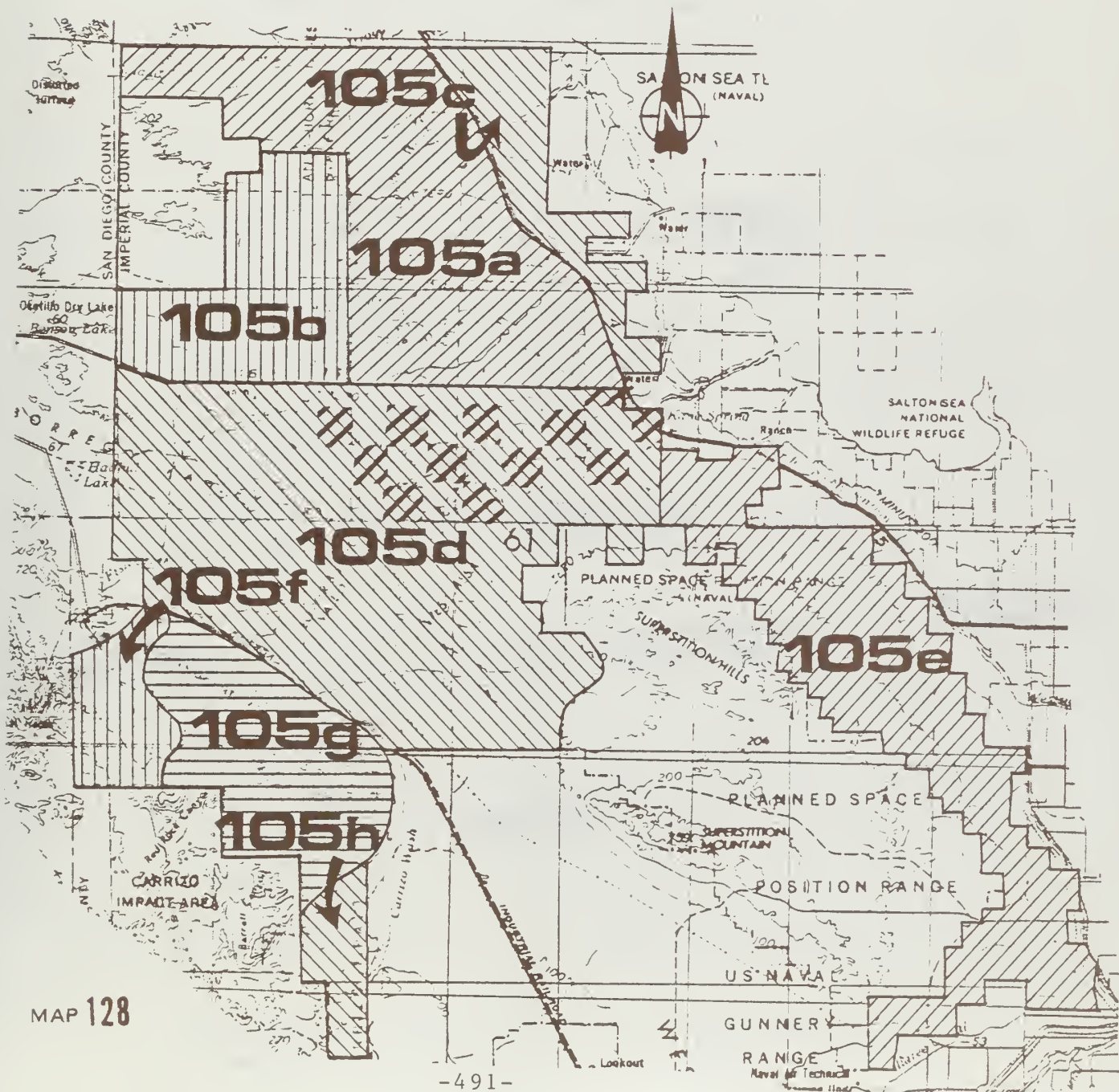
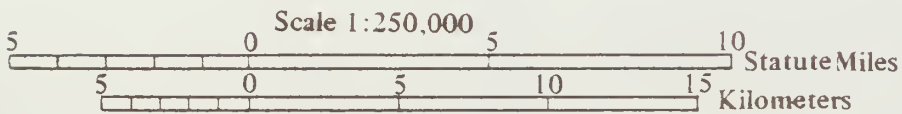
CLASS M

CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

61



PLANNING UNIT **105**

HABITAT MGMT PLAN **61**

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT

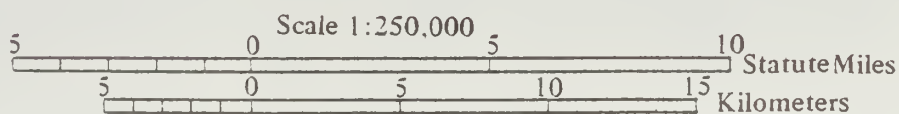
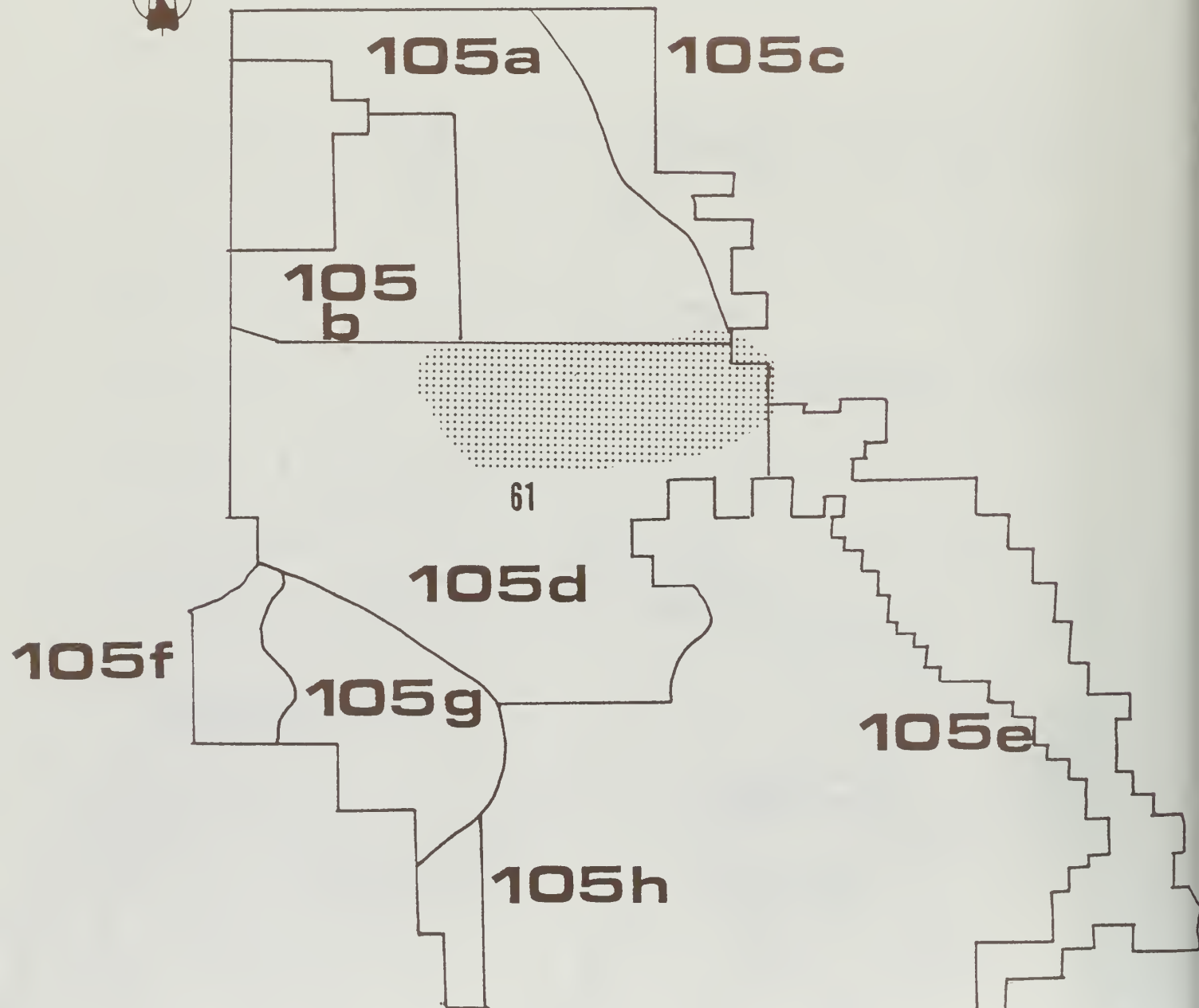
MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED



MAP 129

PLANNING UNIT #106

A. DECISION RATIONALE

1. Multiple Use Class.

a) This area is recommended as Class L to protect its primitive characteristics, outstanding scenic qualities, rare and sensitive vegetation, sensitive wildlife species, cultural resources, and Native American values, while providing for vehicle access for recreational activities and mineral exploration and development (106a, Map 130).

b) This area is recommended as Class I to provide for continuation of traditional ORV open area play activities (106b, Map 130).

c) This area is recommended as Class M to provide for mineral and geothermal energy development and for continuation of motorized vehicle competitive events. An ACEC will delineate competitive race routes in order to prevent impacts on sensitive wildlife and cultural resources (106c, Map 130).

d) This area is recommended as Class C to protect its outstanding wilderness qualities, wildlife, soils, vegetation and cultural resources (106d, Map 130).

e) This area is recommended as Class L to protect wildlife, a unique plant assemblage, and high Native American values, while providing limited vehicle access (106e, Map 130).

2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Planning Unit #106 contains three ACECs. ACEC #62, the Coyote Mountains Fossil Site, will be protected for its paleontological values (62, Map 130). ACEC #63, the Coyote Mountains, will be protected for their prehistoric values (64, Map 130). ACEC #64, the Yuha Basin, will be protected for its prehistoric and historic values, as well as wildlife habitat (64, Map 130).

3. Wildlife Management. A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Smuggler's Cave. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values in this southern chaparral habitat. Completion of the HMP will be within 5 years (W61, Map 131).

A Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for Coyote Mountains/Davies Valley. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values in the area, especially the state listed "rare" magic gecko. Completion of the HMP will be within 5 years (W60, Map 131).

A Wildlife Habitat Management Plan will be prepared for the Yuha Basin. The management objective is to protect and enhance wildlife values in the area, especially the optimal habitat of the BLM sensitive listed flat-tailed horned lizard. Completion of the HMP will be within 2 years (64, Map 131).

4. Grazing Allocations. None.

5. Wild Horses and Burros. There are no Herd Management Area Plans.



6. Utility Corridors. Utility Corridors "N" passes through the Planning Unit. It follows an existing corridor, and is a portion of a regional network to link power sources with areas of power consumption (N, Map 130).

7. Motorized Vehicle Access. There is one exception to the Multiple Use Class Guidelines in Planning Unit #106.

The Yuha Basin, ACEC #64, a Class "M" area, will receive a management designation of approved routes of travel to protect cultural resources (64, Map 131).

#### B. VALUES CONSIDERED

1. Cultural. Within this area are extensive zones of concentrated, diverse and complex archaeological sites ranging in age from ancient prehistoric to historic. Mountainous, hilly, and open areas all contain extremely important sites. The old lakeshores of Cahuilla transect the area, as do the historic (1840s) Butterfield Trail and 1770s Fages exploration route.

2. Native American. A portion of the area is a traditional collection area for the Kamia.

3. Wildlife. There are two state or federal listed species, the magic gecko, and the Peninsular bighorn sheep. The flat-tailed horned lizard is the only BLM sensitive species. Other important species include the small-scaled lizard, Colorado Desert fringed-toed lizard, Brazilian free-tailed bat, and mule deer. Pinto Wash, and the Smuggler's Cave area are particularly important for wildlife.

4. Vegetation. The area has at least three sensitive plant species. There are also five unusual plant assemblages.

5. Wilderness. Planning Unit #106 has two Wilderness Study Areas. WSA #368, Inkopah Mountains, was rated Number 5 out of 137, while WSA #373, Coyote Mountains was rated #47.

6. Grazing. None.

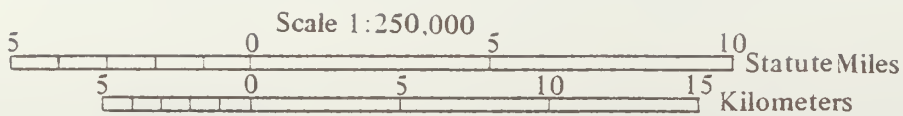
7. Wild Horses and Burros. None.

8. Recreation. There are excellent hiking, backpacking, nature study, and birdwatching opportunities in the Coyote and Jacumba Mountains, and in Palen Canyon Wash. About 20 miles of Interstate Route 8 is eligible for designation as a State Scenic Route. Major activities include: camping, hiking, rock-hounding, target shooting, motorcycle play and touring, four wheel drive play and touring, education and research, and ORV (all types) competition.

9. Geology-Energy-Minerals. This planning unit contains several mineral commodities as well as geothermal resources. There are over ten active sand and gravel pits with operations centered near Plaser City and in the southeastern part of the area. High quality limestone, bentonite, gypsum, and silica deposits in the Coyote Mountains have produced in the past and will probably be developed as the demand for these commodities increases.

Limestone, feldspar, and diatomite resources also occur in the Jacumba Mountains southwest of Ocotillo. Gold and tungsten also occur in the Jacumbas, where a small amount of tungsten has been produced. The only known occurrence of nickel in the CDCA is found with copper in the Coyote Mountains. Neither gold nor nickel are known to have been produced in this area. Geothermal leases have been issued in the Yuha Desert and exploration of geothermal resources is continuing. There are more than 10 patented claims and as of December 1979 there were 145 unpatented claims recorded with the BLM.





PLANNING UNIT

CLASS C

CLASS L

CLASS M

CLASS I

UTILITY PLANNING CORRIDOR

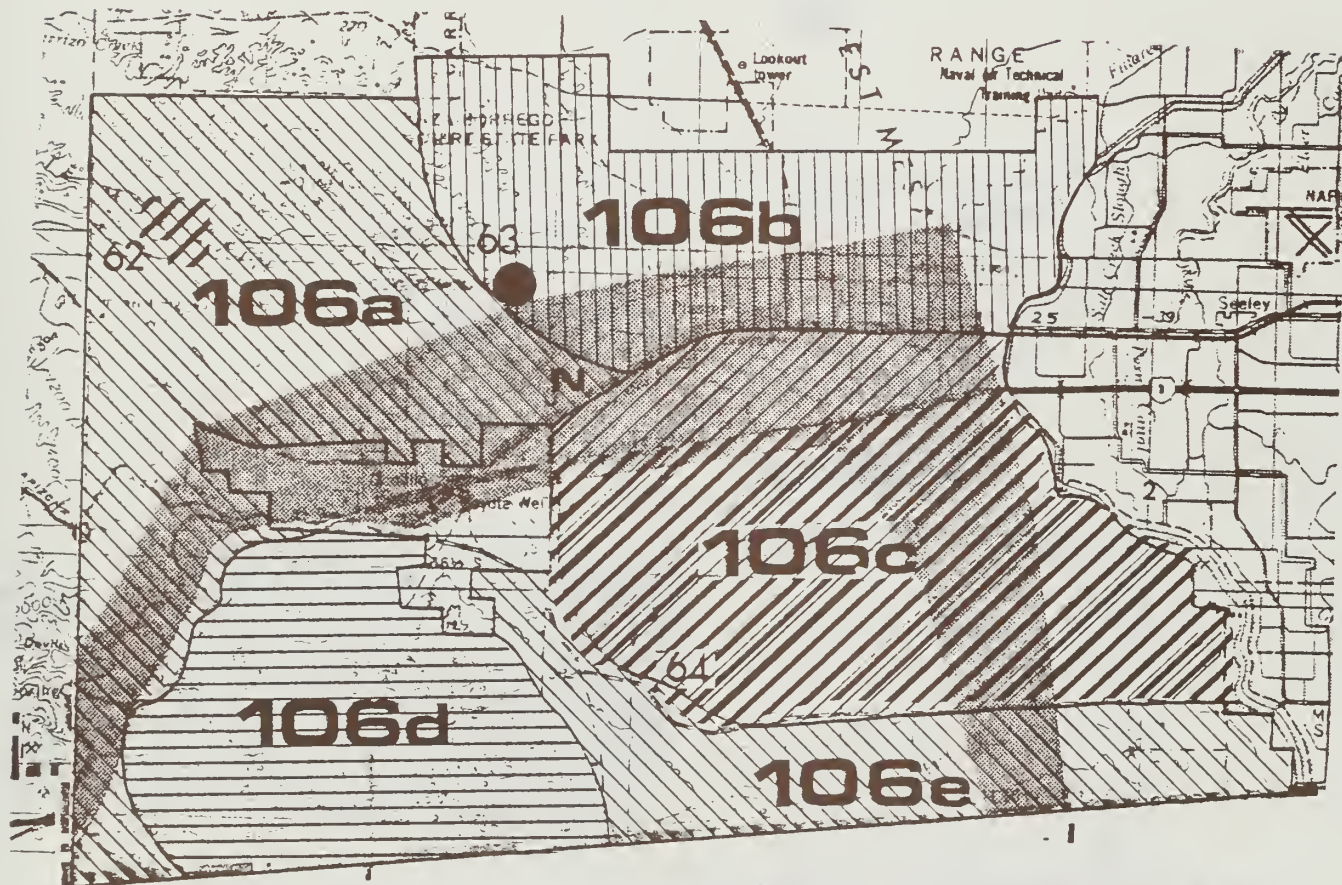
AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

**106**



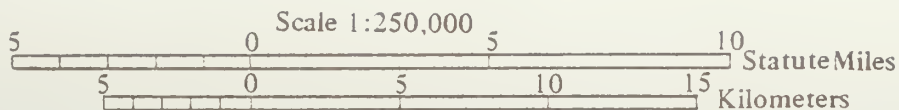
62,64

63



MAP 130





PLANNING UNIT

HABITAT MGMT PLAN

HERD MGMT AREA PLAN

GRAZING ALLOTMENT

MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS  
EXCEPTION TO MULTIPLE USE CLASS

OPEN

APPROVED ROUTES OF TRAVEL

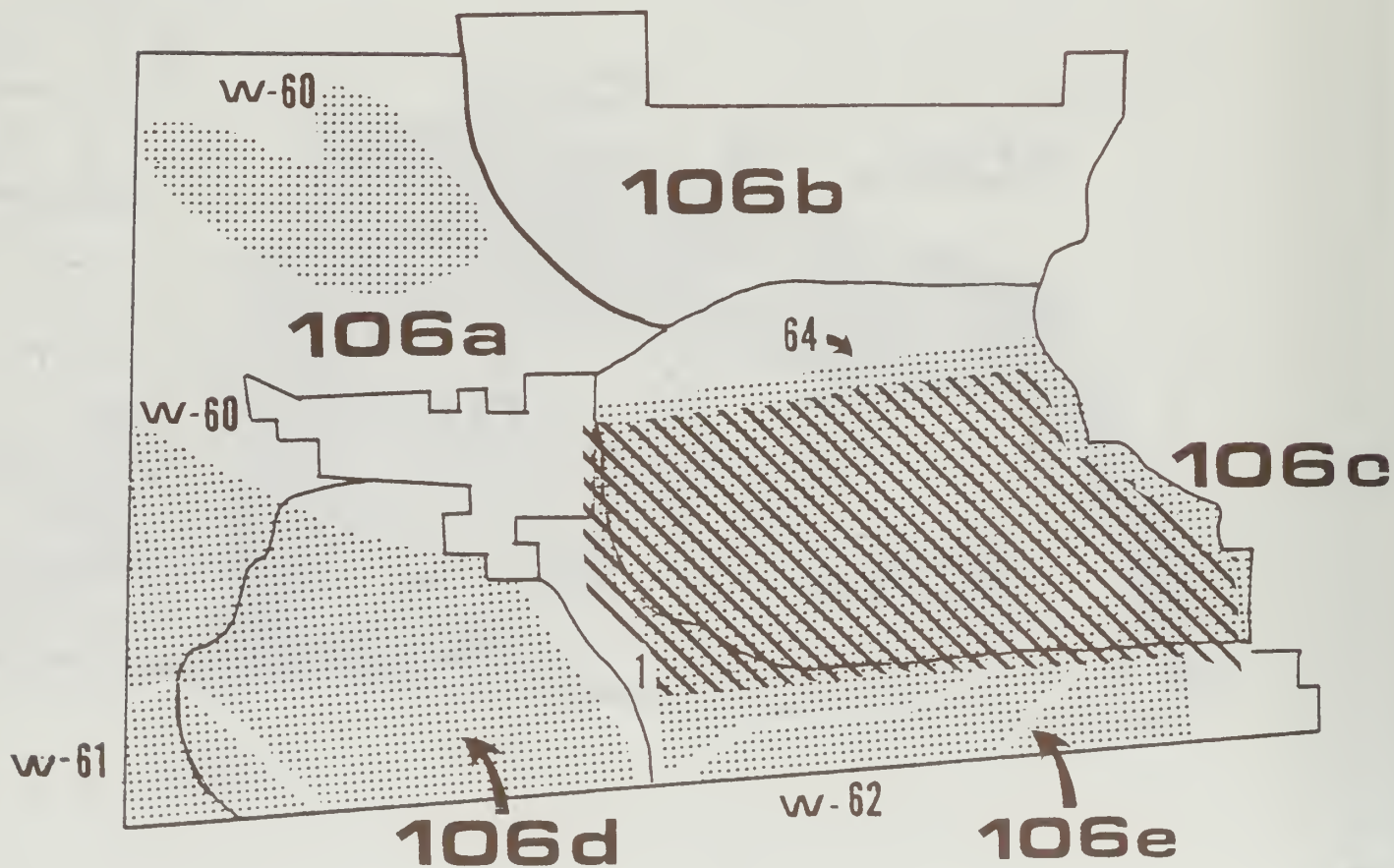
EXISTING ROUTES OF TRAVEL

CLOSED

**106**

w-60, w-61,

w-62, 64.



MAP 131

Bureau of Land Management  
Library  
Bldg. 50, Denver Federal Center  
Denver, CO 80225

United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

California Desert District  
Box 5555  
Riverside, California 92506



Postage And Fees Paid  
U.S. Department Of The Interior  
INT-415



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**To**

